

ACTIVITY

PLAN

2026

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Centro de Investigação
e Estudos de Sociologia

CIES-Iscte
Activity Plan 2026

Contacts

Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia (CIES-Iscte)
Avenida das Forças Armadas, Iscte, Ed. Sedas Nunes, 1649-026 Lisboa

Tel. +351 210 464 018/192

E-mail: cies@iscte.pt

www.cies.iscte.pt

www.sociologiapp.iscte.pt

www.mundossociais.com

CIES-Iscte

Activity Plan 2026

Introduction

The 2026 Activity Plan builds on the Strategic Plan approved by the FCT in 2025, which set out the centre's main strategic priorities. CIES's Strategic Plan focused on promoting the study and analysis of social transformations and on addressing these challenges, with contributions aimed at responding to the needs of society and the requirements of public policy. The Plan also supports the numerous activities carried out by the centre's Observatories and Laboratories, as well as researchers' initiatives, providing an environment that fosters open discussion and public debate.

In 2026, CIES will continue to execute its Strategic Plan relying on the collaboration between researchers to build alliances and promote a dynamic work environment where research initiatives can contribute to evidence-based policy recommendations and solutions.

CIES-Iscte is an organisational unit of Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and a member of the Iscte – Knowledge and Innovation association, operating fully within the conditions and framework established by Iscte's research policy guidelines.

Strategic Plan and Organization

1. Support and monitoring of the activities of research groups. CIES is organised into seven Research Groups, within which research projects funded through open calls for proposals and subject to scientific evaluation are carried out, as well as applied research projects and knowledge transfer activities, drawing on its established scientific expertise. CIES will continue to support the submission of applications at national and international level and the organisation of meetings, seminars and events, ensuring an environment that promotes and encourages joint activities. The seven groups are

Inequality, Work and Social Well-Being; Migration, Mobility and Ethnicity; Education and Science; Media and Culture; Gender, Life Course and Health; Politics and Citizenship; and Historical Dynamics and Global Integration of the World.

2. Support for CIES research infrastructures - Observatories and Laboratories. CIES will continue to support the conditions for on-going activities and ensuring the articulation with the research groups. CIES has eight Observatories and Laboratories: Emigration Observatory (OEm), Inequality Observatory, Laboratory of Methodological Innovation (LIM); Laboratory for the Social Studies on Childbirth (nascer.pt), MediaLab, Observatory on Democracy and Political Representation, Portuguese Observatory on Cultural Activities (OPAC), and Public Sphere LAB (LEP).
3. Active engagement and participation with internal and external partners to develop proposals and lead consortia in European research projects and programs as well as in international projects, programs and venues. This also involves full collaboration with Iscte's Research Support Office in submitting applications and tenders for European grants and activities (Horizon Europe, ERC, Marie Curie Actions, COST, etc.) with other partners, and with Iscte's International Office in exchange initiatives with partner universities (Erasmus+, PIONEER Alliance).
4. Identify and lead partnerships and projects with public, private, and social entities to produce and disseminate research results, updated information and provide contributions for the definition and evaluation of public policies and for knowledge transfer. This includes preparatory studies and public policy evaluations, participation in debates, round tables, conferences and other events for non-academic audiences, including participation as members of advisory bodies, evaluation panels, media presence, among others.
5. Continue to support collaborations in national and international social science research infrastructures, such as ESS-ERIC (European Social Survey) and PASSDA (Production and Archive of Social Science Data), as well as the active engagement in Collaborative Laboratories, such as CoLABOR, in the field of Labor, Employment and Social Protection, which promotes DATALABOR, a platform to provide data and legal information on work, employment and social protection.
6. With the decentralization of Iscte R&D awards, CIES assumed the responsibility to organize and distribute the CIES-Iscte Research Prizes. Monetary prizes are distributed

by the Centre to its researchers according to top scientific publications in first quartile journals and indexed books and to financed projects according to amount of funding.

7. Review and update CIES's communication strategy, with the aim of reinforcing the visibility of its activities on social media and other platforms. The CIES-Iscte website will be maintained and supported.
8. Staff reinforcement. Following the transfer of some staff members to other organisational units, efforts will be made to meet the current need to strengthen the team.

Scientific employment and careers

9. Support measures that promote the development of research careers. With the recruitment of 15 researchers having been finalised in 2025, 2026 marks the start of a new phase for the centre, which will now benefit from a dedicated research team. Regular monitoring of researchers' work plans will be ensured, as well as support for the submission of applications and other activities.
10. Implement recruitment policies to hire researchers on fixed-term contracts at observatories and laboratories, where financial resources are available.
11. To promote mechanisms for the regular qualitative monitoring of the activities of full-time researchers in tenure-track positions, with the aim of developing robust career pathways characterised by high standards of scientific quality, while ensuring compliance with the assessment criteria set out in Iscte's Regulations on Research, Science and Technology Staff. Guiding principles for research careers are currently being defined, particularly with regard to the requirements for the successful completion of the probationary period and eligibility for qualification examinations.
12. To promote and support applications for PhD scholarships, such as Iscte's merit-based scholarships, the Pioneer Research Scholarships, PhD scholarships (FCT's open competition) or those linked to research projects.

Institutional framework and development

13. Integrate initiatives promoted within the SocioDigital Laboratory for Public Policy, an Associate Laboratory of 6 research units at Iscte that CIES leads as the proponent institution. This includes numerous activities such as research contracting and hiring, organization of different multidisciplinary workshops and the annual conference.
14. Continued support initiatives by the Rectorship to promote Iscte – Knowledge and Innovation, the Centre for Valorization and Technology Transfer and consolidate the organization and management of the Association. Regular meetings held to ensure the planning and coordination of joint activities of the Association.

Doctoral Programmes

15. Support, manage and coordinate the eight Doctoral Programs organized within CIES-Iscte and in collaboration with the School of Sociology and Public Policy - ESPP: Communication, Modern and Contemporary History, Political Science, Policies of School Administration and Management, Public Policy, Public Administration, Social Work and Sociology.
16. Continue to collaborate with different Interuniversity Doctoral Programs: Political Economy, Communication Studies: Technology, Culture and Society and Urban Studies.
17. To strengthen the integration of PhD students into research groups by assigning all students (both those with and without research grants) to CIES research groups, based on the topic of their research projects. This measure will not only strengthen the students' integration into CIES, but will also benefit the scientific dynamics of the research groups
18. Organize, in collaboration with the Centre for International Studies and the School of Sociology and Public Policy, the annual International Cycle of Doctoral Conferences and the Doctoral Colloquium.
19. Revision of the section on the CIES website dedicated to PhD programmes, expanding the information available to students and improving its organisation.

Debate Activities

20. Throughout 2026 CIES-Iscte will continue to promote national and international conferences and seminars and organize regular discussions and debates. These include:

CIES Research Forum

CIES Research Workshops

Forum of Public Policy

Cycles of Research Seminars:

- Biographies and Trajectories
- China Studies
- Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Families
- Encounters with History
- ETNO.URB Readings - Urban Ethnography
- Migration Experiences
- New Perspectives on Modern History
- Social Movements and Political Action

Editorial Activities

21. Continue to support the development of the editorial activity of CIES-Iscte, paying close attention to international journal rankings.

22. Support the publication of the journal *Sociologia, Problemas e Práticas*.

23. Support for the publisher Mundos Sociais, monitoring the publisher's integration into ISCTE and the contract with Livraria Almedina, which will start to commercialize the publisher's titles online and in bookshops.

24. Support the publication of the journal *Ler História* in partnership with CEI-Iscte, and the *Observatório* (OBS*) in collaboration with Obercom.
25. Continue to improve the publication of CIES e-Working Papers.

Activities to Promote Scientific Culture

26. CIES-Iscte will continue to undertake activities to promote scientific culture, such as participation in the programs of the *Agência Ciência Viva* - Scientific Occupation of Youth during Holidays, S&T week, and the European Researchers' Night.