

# DCitizens Fostering Digital Civics Research and Innovation in Lisbon

## DELIVERABLE 1.1: Short-term Staff Exchange Plan

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## D1.1: Short-term Staff Exchange Plan

### Project Information

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
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| Call            | HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03                              |
| Website         | <a href="https://dcitizens.eu/">https://dcitizens.eu/</a>  |

### Deliverable Information

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ID                    | D1.1   |
| Title                 | Short Term Staff Exchange Plan               |
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| WP Leader             | IST  |
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### Dissemination Level

|    |   |                                     |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| PU | Public  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| PP | Restricted to other programme participants        | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| RE | Restricted to a group specified by the consortium | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| CO | Confidential, only for members of the consortium  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## Document Log

| Version | Date       | Author       | Description of Change |
|---------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1       | 03/01/2023 | Hugo Nicolau | First release         |
| 2       | 30/01/2023 | Hugo Nicolau | Updated exchange plan |

## Disclaimer

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## Executive Summary

The short-term staff exchange plan (D1.1) outlines the interchange of research, staff, and early-stage researchers between the IST (coordinator) and partner organisations, and vice-versa. The main goal is to promote the exchange of scientific knowledge and support collaborations between the consortium in line with the Strategic Areas of DCitizens. The planned visits also include exchanging administrative staff to upskill project management capacity at IST.

This deliverable outlines the plan for the whole duration of the project, i.e., 36 months.

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## 1. Short-term Staff Exchanges

Short-term staff exchanges are planned to promote the interchange of scientific knowledge and expertise between the DCitizens consortium. Particularly, exchanges aim to enhance IST research and innovation competence in four Strategic Areas related to Digital Civics: 1) Community-based Research Methods, 2) Emerging Technologies, 3) Design Justice, and 4) Civics, Policy, and Economic Models. Moreover, each exchange aims to: build rapport as well as a shared mental model of Twinning partners' expertise through presentation of previous and ongoing projects; support current joint efforts (e.g., papers, proposals, deliverables); and identify opportunities for future collaborations, namely in joint MSc/PhD supervision and European research projects. We will define an agenda for each exchange initiative to support all these goals.

The exchange plan is aligned with other project initiatives, such as summer schools for ESRs (during summer months), lab retreats (yearly in November), and management training. Most staff visits will be for one week, and ESR will be able to do exchanges of up to 3 weeks.

Figure 1 illustrates the exchanges between the consortium throughout the project lifespan. The cell's content represents the number of weeks, and its background colour shows the hosting institution. For instance, Hugo Nicolau will stay at IIT for two weeks between months 6 (May) and 8 (July) of the project. Partners will host IST staff for a total of 78 weeks (26 weeks at each partner). We plan to engage nine permanent Professors/Researchers, three administrative/management staff, and eight ESR from IST in short-term exchanges.

To optimise budget spending, staff exchanges are aligned with lab retreats hosted yearly by each institution. IST will host ESRs from partner institutions during summer schools.

Exchanges also include administrative staff from IST. IIT is leading WP5, which aims to increase the research management skills at IST and support the creation of a new Research Management Unit. Thus, we planned a visit to IIT from IST administrative staff in the first year of the DCitizens. The goal is to embed the IST team in a thriving research environment, facilitating the collection of best practices, processes, and management infrastructure. These efforts will result in a Research Management Action Plan (D5.1) and a Management Training Plan (D5.2).

The following sections describe the exchanges between IST and the three partners. Particularly how these align with the Strategic Areas.

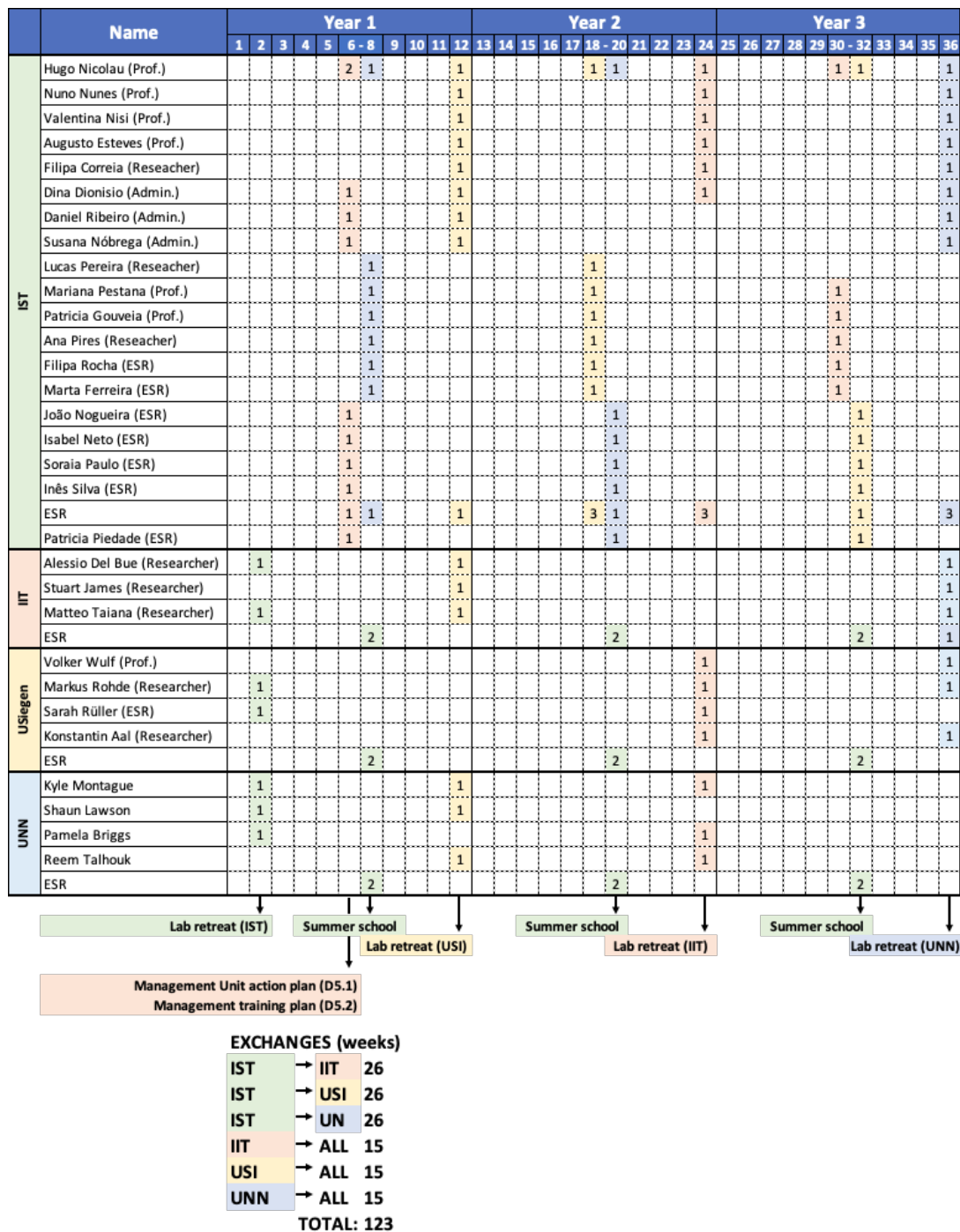


Figure 1. Representation of staff exchanges between IST and partners. Cell's content represents number of weeks and colours represent the hosting partner.

### 1.1. IST – IIT Exchange

The exchanges between IST and IIT are in line with three Strategic Areas (SAs), particularly addressing the following sub-topics:

**SA1 - Community-based Research Methods:** IST will strengthen its expertise in co-design methods, particularly when working with refugees and migrants, to create

novel ways of experiencing cities. IIT will learn about ethnographic methods and designing technologies with people with disabilities.

**SA2 - Emerging Technologies:** IST will bring expertise in blockchain and its applications in civic technologies, while IIT will provide knowledge on artificial intelligence and computer vision applications for social good.

**SA3 - Design Justice:** IST will learn about how ethics (e.g., fairness, algorithmic bias) influences the field of artificial intelligence and provides IIT with expertise in accessibility and inclusive technologies.

## 1.2. IST – USI Exchange

The exchanges between IST and USI will address the following sub-topics and goals:

**SA1 - Community-based Research Methods:** IST will leverage expertise from the USI and strengthen knowledge in action-based research and civic engagement. USI will learn about recent developments in designing technologies for mixed-ability school communities.

**SA3 - Design Justice:** IST will bring expertise in disability justice and inclusive design, while USI will provide knowledge on citizen participation methods and (un)successful use cases.

**SA4 - Civics, Policy, and Economic Models:** IST will learn how to design technologies to support political activism and open modes of service provision while providing knowledge on technologies for decentralized governance.

## 1.3. IST – UNN Exchange

The exchanges between IST and UNN will address the following sub-topics and goals:

**SA1 - Community-based Research Methods:** IST will strengthen its expertise in conducting community-embedded research and developing technologies for multi-stakeholder projects. UNN will learn about co-creation methods for citizens with sensory (e.g., visual and hearing impairments) and intellectual impairments.

**SA2 - Emerging Technologies:** IST will learn about deployment of hyperlocal sensor networks and data science while providing expertise on blockchain and mobile technologies for social inclusion.

**SA4 - Civics, Policy, and Economic Models:** IST will bring expertise in democratising innovation and shed light on new economics of digital data, while UNN will provide knowledge on sustainable models for public service provision and how to implement community-led policy reform.

## 2. Conclusion

The goal of the Short-term Staff Exchange is to foster the interchange of scientific knowledge between Twinning partners in line with the identified Strategic Areas and the DCitizens objectives, particularly O1 (Enhance ITI research profile and innovation competence in Digital Civics), O2 (Provide training to Staff and Early-Stage Researchers), and O4 (Strengthen and expand the collaborative network between the Twinning partners). The planned visits also include exchanging administrative staff to improve project management skills at ITI.

Overall, we have planned an average of 41 weeks of exchanges per year, resulting in a total of 123 weeks of exchanges between the consortia. IST will engage 20 people (professors, researchers, administrative staff, and ESR) in the exchange program.