NETWORKING ECOLOGICALLY SMART TERRITORIES

OVERVIEW

The principal aim of Networking Ecologically Smart Territories (**NEST**) is to test the hypothesis that digital diversification, which will be explored as noodiversification and technodiversification as the conditions of resilience of human societies, holds the key to a reinvention of contemporary, proletarianising, industrial economics. For this purpose, a large transdisciplinary research mobility project is necessary in order to articulate local territorial situations with international concerns in the context of the Anthropocene. The aims will be achieved through an international and intersectorial exchange of researchers and staff across the academic and non-academic partners of **NEST**.

The **NEST** consortium is made of 11 partners, 4 EU academic partners TU Dublin (IRL), Institute for Research and Innovation IRI (FR), University of Paris Lumières (FR), University of SALSKI (PL) and 2 Third Country academic Partners Universidad de las Artes, UARTES (EC), Berkeley University (US) and 5 non-academic partners, Dublin City Council, DCC (IRL), Conseil Departmental Seine-Saint Denis, CSSD (FR), Factory Full of Life (PL), Disnovation (FR), and the Galápagos Islands Government Council (EC).

There are 3 academic **Work Packages**. By extending the critique of digital technology already undertaken by the Digital Studies Network to reconsider the foundations of computer theory in relation to the concepts of locality, negentropy, anti-entropy, data economy and networked AI by developing the concepts of technodiversity and cosmotechnics (WP1). To experiment and introduce new forms of collective responsibility through Territorial experimentation, enabling new forms of citizen participation in local governance through contributory research (WP2). To experiment and develop a network of territorial laboratories of digital contributory research in order to study the constraints acting on life and the archipelagos of ecological niches by species inhabiting the same territoires, with a view to generating local understandings of living singularities and functional cooperations between territorial-laboratories and academics in view of the planetary threat. (WP3).

MSCA RISE CALL

The Marie Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) provides staff across different sectors and nations with the opportunities to partake in short-term exchanges to share knowledge and skills while furthering the careers of participants. For **Nest**, these exchanges will allow academic staff from different universities in different nations and non-academic staff from partner organizations in the EU and TC to partake in short-term research exchanges, as well as several events that include all the participants.

RISE funds research exchanges across borders and sectors. For example, academic staff and researchers from University Paris Lumiere and the Institut de Recherche et d'Innovation at the Pompidou Centre in Paris can travel to Dublin to work with staff in the non-academic sector, allowing for interactions between these organisations, creating new partnerships and promoting citizen participation in local governance of the territories.

The academic partners for **Nest** are located worldwide, including the Universidad de las Artes in Ecuador and Slaski University in Poland. Non-academic partners include the Seine-Saint Denis district in Paris (CSSD), France, the Consejo de Gobierno of the Galápagos Islands and Dublin City Council.

Staff participants in this RISE project will be part of a transnational, transdisciplinary network, engaging in events and research exchanges over 36 months that will allow them to gain skills and knowledge to enhance their home institutions, while fostering international connections that can lead to further collaboration.

WORK PACKAGES

Work package 1: Critique of Computer Theory

The main objective of WP1 is to develop methods from Digital Studies in relation to individual ecological as practice, the future of humanity requires that the specific questions of locality, negentropy and anti-entropy be addressed. In the current context of big data and Artificial Intelligence thought (noesis) is not reducible to calculation, language to computational models of language processing. The fight against anthropy (optimisation, standardisation) requires that other forms of thought (noodiversty) are encouraged, in order to do so new philosophical concepts are needed (cosmotechnics, technodiversity, Yuk Hui 2019). In doing so, WP1 explores historical computer foundations and current computer theory in relation to the design of new ecological and organological forms for new modes of computation.

This WP is led by IRI and UPL, that have complementary experience in digital studies and noetic perspectives (attention, data, addiction). This critique of computation will be accompanied by an organological research in terms of experimentation of functionalities in the living (lab) territories (WP2 and WP3) combining theoretical computation with human computer interface design and artistic research.

Researchers from TU Dublin and Uartes will be on secondment to IRI, CSSD and researchers from Paris Lumiere and IRI will go on secondment to TU Dublin, Uartes and Berkeley. The interaction between academic and non-academic partners will develop the implementation of the theoretical models in concrete contexts. These debates refer to how human behaviours, duties and characters are now being shaped by artificial systems.

Work package 2: Existential Territorial Laboratories – Locality and Noodiversity

This WP has two main objectives. Firstly, to provide international experience of contributory research methodologies to academics and citizens; secondly, to enable researchers from different disciplines to engage in localised research projects in Paris, Ecuador, Dublin, Silesia.

This WP will establish modes of experimentation as therapeutic niches, where the contributory research process can be developed and implemented; these modes will be formulated through territorial experimentation. Because of their outstanding experience in territorial experimentation and socially engaged projects, UARTES will be the lead beneficiary of WP2. They will be helped by IRI and SLASKI University and learn from their experience of contributory research and its implementation. This WP will develop specific modes of territorial experimentation (in DCC, GAL, Salesia and Saint Denis, as outlined in WPs in section 3), which will be discussed in an international forum generated by the ERs and ESRs secondment experiences in these territories.

All partners will be invited to take part in the development of a toolkit which will be tested in other contexts, rural, island contexts. The specific training of this WP will include the development of research methodologies through digital studies, contributory research and artistic research to engage with citizens and real world problems – localised problems, for example the implementation of scientific norms in relation to fishing Islands, the development of digital literacy for young adults and teenagers in relation to the use of social media within specific communities, among others. This will be done thanks to the creation of "therapeutic niches", that is the local cultivation of the different forms of knowledge via "therapeutic of diversity" and the systematic valorization of local negentropic activities, with the aim of recreating specific local forms of accounting and local dynamics between techno- and bio-diversity of the territory for the reconstruction of more sustainable urban, peri-urban and insular territories. Among the expected outcomes of the WP there will be the toolkit for territorial experimentation and for smart territorial development and the organisation of several networking events (exhibitions, workshops).

Work package 3: The Archipelago of the Living

Archipelago of the living (WP3) is a contributory research program. This WP will bring together fishermen, farmers and inhabitants of insular territories that are more or less exposed to tourism flows with academic researchers from various disciplines, initially from biology, geography and theoretical computing, as well as artists, economists and lawyers.

The goal of this WP is to build modes of contributory research and contributive economies in living territories, drawing on the studies from WP1 and the experiments from WP2. WP3 will expand from the urban experimentations in WP2 to rural territories and islands (morphological and metaphorical) to systematically explore relation between the human species and other species in two contexts, firstly that of rurality and secondly, of the urbanity (urban agriculture, urban recycling and upcycling). The aim of the WP3 is to develop intersectoral solutions (academic and non- academic) which take into account the local context (locality) and taking a maximum advantage of digital technologies to harness the singularities and value of living territories and the cooperation between the living lab territories and academic laboratories. The secondments of this WP will focus on the development of contributory research within the different rural localities including Saint Denis, the Galapagos Islands and Sherkin Island.

What is Contributory Research?

Contributory research is conceived around research communities integrating different forms of knowledge (practical and theoretical), where standard academic, artistic, technological and industrial research can dialogue horizontally with experimental territorial laboratories (localities, such as Dublin City Council, Saint-Denis CSSD, Silesia and the local government of the Galápagos Islands GAL), which will act as places of rapid adoption of technologies. These territorial laboratories will in **Nest** be grouped under the heading of the **Archipelago of the Living**.

SECONDMENTS

(1) Secondees should have at least 1 month full time contractual relationship with the sending institution before starting the secondment.

(2) Secondees are encouraged to have a project related to their own research/professional interests and linked to one or more **Nest** work packages.

(3) There is an allowance of €2000 per secondment to pay for travel, accommodation and subsistence. All original receipts should be kept as proof of secondment and for auditory purposes (boarding passes, train tickets, leasing agreement, meals, groceries etc...).

(4) Partners should make their own travel/accommodation arrangements.

(5) The partner acting as a host might facilitate a desk and general & administrative support during secondment. Minimum Period Secondment : 30 days.

Note: Secondments might be split in different periods (i.e. 15 days + 15 days) but the same allowance of €2000 per secondment still applies.

IMPORTANT

At the end of the secondment the secondee is expected to:

(1) Fill out the European Commission Feedback questionnaire (no later than 2 weeks after completion of secondment: compulsory). The link will be sent by EU Commission in due course.

(2) Record their experience on the ground for reporting purposes (a report template will be facilitated by the Coordinating institution, TU Dublin).

(3) Any communication and/or deliverable in relation with this project must include **EU** and **Nest** logos and the tag-line below:

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