



International Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD) Conference

## Bridging Knowledge and Networks: Inter- and Transdisciplinarity for Transformative Change

31 May – 4 June 2027, Évora, Portugal

### ITD27 Call for Contributions



### The Conference Mission and Audience

The global Inter- and Transdisciplinarity (ITD) community is rooted in diverse contexts and committed to dialogue on equal footing, remaining open to new approaches while recognising the need for institutions and systems to evolve in support of this work. The conference focuses on the role of ITD in transformative change. Rather than prescribing a single definition, we invite diverse interpretations and critical reflection, fostering exchange across disciplinary, institutional, and societal boundaries. Through this pluralistic approach, we seek to contribute to addressing today's interconnected global challenges.

This conference provides the opportunity for participants from around the world to share their knowledge, insights, expertise, and questions on the critical issues in ITD. For experts in the field, this conference provides an excellent opportunity to advance the capacity for ITD by sharing knowledge and insights. For relative newcomers to inter- and transdisciplinary initiatives, this conference provides the opportunity to immerse themselves fully and to develop new collaborations and innovative approaches to the complex challenges facing our local and global communities.

Our mission is to create space for dialogue across communities, perspectives, and practices — recognising both common ground and differences between inter- and transdisciplinary approaches. We encourage contributions that explore these complementarities and tensions, as well as those that deepen specific lines of work. Open discussion and collective reflection on the evolving relationships between sciences, humanities, the arts, and society are central to this effort, particularly as funding, support structures, and social innovation landscapes continue to evolve.

We invite contributions from a wide range of fields and research cultures, including work by individuals or teams, as well as interprofessional and inter- and transdisciplinary initiatives across sectors. Contributions may range from local initiatives to large-scale collaborations spanning the Global North and South. We aim to bring together diverse communities — including trainers and educational developers, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, artists, facilitators, leaders of inter- and transdisciplinary programmes, funders, students, and other boundary-crossing professionals — to share knowledge and expertise on critical issues in ITD and related fields (e.g., citizen science, action research, participatory research). We particularly encourage submissions that critically reflect on practice as well as theory.



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### ITD27 Conference Information

When: 31 May – 4 June 2027  
Where: Colégio Espírito Santo, Évora University, Évora, Portugal  
Website: <https://itd-alliance.org/itd-conference/itd27/>  
Email: [itd27@uevora.pt](mailto:itd27@uevora.pt)

### ITD27 Call for Contributions Important Dates

Deadline for abstract submissions: 30 June 2026  
Notice of acceptance: September 2026

## Conference Tracks and Keywords

In line with this mission, we invite contributions across four interconnected tracks. Across all tracks, we welcome submissions addressing cross-cutting themes such as:

- Trade-offs, incentives and barriers
- Artificial intelligence
- Leadership
- More-than-human perspectives
- Global South collaborations

Please indicate how your submission aligns with one primary track and select one or more relevant keywords. You may also add additional keywords where appropriate. Across all tracks, we welcome empirical contributions from diverse fields, including environmental studies, health, social-ecological research, arts and science, and other domains engaging with inter- and transdisciplinary processes.

### **TRACK 1: Enhancing the theoretical and empirical foundations of inter- and transdisciplinarity**

Keywords:

- 1.1. Concepts, frameworks, and processes
- 1.2. Historical perspectives and emerging challenges
- 1.3. Meta-research: ITD as a research object
- 1.4. Theory development, implementation, and evaluation
- 1.5. Applicability and societal relevance of ITD theory
- 1.6. Diversity across cultures, disciplines, contexts
- 1.7. Modes of collaboration and cross-fertilization
- 1.8. Power dynamics, politics, and conflict
- 1.9. Collaboration across knowledge systems, including activism, arts and interprofessional
- 1.10. Mission-oriented and transformative research programs
- 1.11. Action research, convergence science, and community-engaged research

### **TRACK 2: Strengthening the capability for inter- and transdisciplinarity**

Keywords:

- 2.1. Skills, competencies, and future capabilities
- 2.2. Roles of integration experts and related professions
- 2.3. Communities of practice and field development

- 2.4. Motivation (internal or external) and engagement
- 2.5. Addressing collaborative challenges (including deficiencies)
- 2.6. Intersectional approaches
- 2.7. Institutional transformation and governance
- 2.8. Roles of funders and funding schemes
- 2.9. Career pathways and professional development
- 2.10. Evaluation, publishing, and reward systems
- 2.11. Benefits for trainers, students, and life-long learners, institutions, and society
- 2.12. Epistemic justice and/or humility
- 2.13. Staff and students challenging the status quo

### **TRACK 3: Broadening and deepening education and training in inter- and transdisciplinarity**

Keywords:

- 3.1. Learning processes (individual, social, societal)
- 3.2. Pedagogical and didactic approaches
- 3.3. Transformative learning
- 3.4. Education for societal transformation
- 3.5. Roles and identities in ITD education
- 3.6. Collective thinking, learning, co-creation, action
- 3.7. Collaboration and integrative thinking
- 3.8. Tools, methodologies, vocabularies and other 'immutable mobiles'
- 3.9. Digital and AI-supported education
- 3.10. Research and evaluation of ITD education
- 3.11. Fluid identities: Teaching the teacher, peer-to-peer training and students as future experts
- 3.12. Value-driven educational research, implementation, and evaluation
- 3.13. Research-informed education and practice-informed educational research

### **TRACK 4: Bridging knowledge and networks for transformative change**

Keywords:

- 4.1. Transformative and/or incremental change
- 4.2. ITD in systemic transitions
- 4.3. Tensions, trade-offs, and limits
- 4.4. Power, politics, and values
- 4.5. Bridging knowledge systems and actors
- 4.6. Designing and sustaining cross-sector networks
- 4.7. Roles of intermediaries, boundary organizations
- 4.8. Connecting diverse knowledge systems (including Indigenous and local)
- 4.9. Pathways from knowledge to action and policy
- 4.10. Evaluating and sustaining transformative impact
- 4.11. Networks as infrastructures for learning and action: enabling conditions, barriers, and limitations
- 4.12. Upscaling, institutionalizing, and sustaining transformative initiatives and social innovations beyond projects and funding periods, including aligning funding models, support structures, and mission-oriented and networked approaches

## Formats for Contributions

### Session (in person)

Sessions will run for 60 minutes. To propose a session, provide a title and a brief description of the content and session design (up to 1000 words). Sessions can take various formats, such as presentations, panel discussions or other interactive formats. We encourage integration of contributors from diverse backgrounds and exploration of innovative formats.

### Presentation (in person)

Individual presentations will be limited to 10 minutes. The organizers will group presentations into sessions lasting 60 or 90 minutes. Each session will feature multiple presentations with 5–10 minutes allocated for discussion/presentation. Please submit a title and a 500-word maximum abstract.

### Poster or Installation (hybrid)

- Classical posters
- Installations (tangible objects with explanations or questions)
- Artistic contributions related to inter- and transdisciplinary processes
- Key questions or challenges for discussion presented in an aesthetically appealing form
- Stand-up science and philosophy
- Other forms of exhibits

Posters, key questions, and installations will be on display throughout ITD27 and, if suitable for online presentation. Please provide a title and a 500-word maximum abstract, including format description. For installations, contact the conference office to confirm feasibility.

### Short Videos (online)

Submit videos ranging from 1 to 7 minutes. The videos will be made available online during the conference. Provide a title and a 500-word maximum abstract.

### Workshop (in person)

Activities of joint thinking and action can form the basis of workshops of 60 or 90 minutes. The format is flexible but should not exceed 20-30 minutes of presentation, and participants should have an active role. Propose a workshop with a title and an outline of content and design (up to 1200 words). Feel free to reach out for collaborative workshop development.

### Training (in person)

Propose a 60-90-minutes interactive training session on a specific method, tool, approach, or topic. Submit a title, learning goals, and an outline of the content and the training design (up to 1200 words). Do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to collaborate with us in developing a training.



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## Open Format

Throughout the conference, we welcome interventions, performances, presentations, and exhibitions that transcend verbal communication and don't fit into the above categories. Special exhibition and performance locations may be needed.

## Networking Event

For establishing and consolidating existing and new networks on inter- and transdisciplinarity during ITD27, provide a title and 500-word maximum abstract describing the proposed activities.

## ITD27 Conference Submission Process

Submissions will be processed through the Indico conference platform. The link is available on our website at <https://itd-alliance.org/itd-conference/itd27/>. Please upload your abstract using our ITD27 template, which can also be found on our website.

## Important Dates

- Deadline for abstract submissions: 30 June 2026
- Notice of acceptance: September 2026
- On-site conference with hybrid components: 31 May – 4 June 2027

Due to programme and venue constraints, the conference can only accommodate a limited number of contributions. We encourage prospective contributors to submit proposals that are as focused and clearly positioned as possible. When selecting contributions, we will consider quality, relevance, thematic fit as well as diversity criteria such as geographic and institutional diversity, career stage and disciplinary and sectoral perspectives. The programme committee reserves the right to assign accepted contributions to different formats or tracks to ensure a balanced and coherent programme.

For any questions regarding the submission process or the Call for Contributions in general, please email [itd27@uevora.pt](mailto:itd27@uevora.pt).