



# PhD programme in Development, Societies and Territories

## ABOUT US

- This PhD programme is offered by the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (**UTAD**)
- Hosted by the
  - **CETRAD** (Centre for Transdisciplinary Development Studies)
- In association with an Iberian network of R&D units
  - **CEFAGE** (Centre for Advanced Studies in Management and Economics)
  - **CICS-NOVA** (Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences)
  - **MED** (Institute of Mediterranean Agricultural and Environmental Sciences)
  - **IDEGA** (The Galician University Institute for Research in Development)
  - **NECE** (Research Center in Business Sciences)

## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

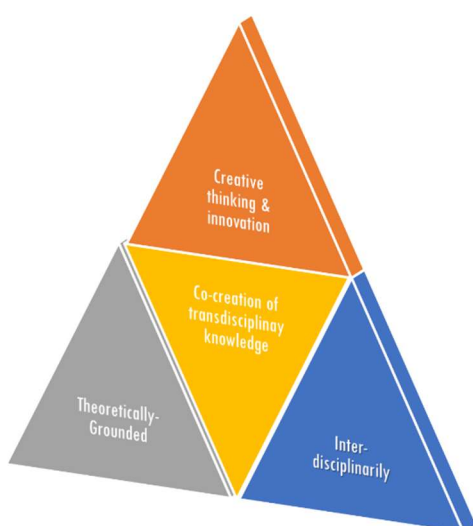
- Supported by an **inter-institutional Iberian network** of high-quality advanced training and research organisations.
- Committed to build **sustainable, inclusive and innovative solutions** to the contemporary challenges of territorial growth and development.
- **Focused on vulnerable territories**, whose fragility increases due to global or regional dynamics of the economy and the markets, the socio-demographic, environmental (climate change), and cultural and socio-political changes.
- Shaped to create **new knowledge and transforming thinking** on the processes, policies and practices of socio-territorial.
- Engaged with society and **open to non-academics** involved in the socio-territorial and searching for scientific background, and contributing to show the potential transdisciplinary approaches in creating knowledge enabling the transformation of the reality.

## OUR MOTIVATION

- To respond societal demand for **creative researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals** – in the academy, RD&I, policy-making, public and private organisations, or the third sector – with skills to comprehend, foresee and respond to the major societal challenges at the local and regional levels, which dynamics are shaped by complex, multifaceted and interconnected shifts at multilevel scales.

## INNOVATIVE APPROACH

- **Interdisciplinary approach** by mobilizing multiple contributions from the social sciences, sociology, economics, and anthropology, and other fields, including management, social work, political science, regional science, sustainability sciences, and the innovation and rural studies.
- **Theoretically well-grounded** focused on capacities development permitting students to mobilise and to integrate theories, models, analytical techniques and tools with an interdisciplinary approach to support the design of research strategies build on co-creation, transdisciplinary, or action-research enhancing the transformative potential of territories, communities or organisations.
- **Multi-stage approach**, by addressing the problems of socio-territorial development in the multiple scales that give rise to problems and where it can be fetched to your understanding and solution, given the global nature of the flows of knowledge, people, and resources and assets.
- Investing in **transdisciplinary approaches** and committed to developing an alternative ways of producing knowledge with a holistic vision involving the subjects of the development in the identification of problems and in the construction of the solutions.



## COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS

- Extending knowledge and understanding about the diversity of socio-territorial development models and critical evaluation of its applicability in practical territorial contexts.
- Building benchmarks of interpretation and interdisciplinary analysis of multidimensional problems and solutions raised by the development processes in communities, organizations, and territories, accounting for the multilevel dynamics of the changes.
- Combining theoretical and methodological knowledge to design and implement projects of innovative research at the frontier of knowledge relevant to the advance of the state of the art in the field of development studies by answering to societal challenges.
- Building new knowledge and innovative public policies to overcome local and regional challenges in the context of action research and participatory multi-actor approaches and co-creation of transdisciplinary knowledge and experience.

## TARGET STUDENTS

- Both national and international candidates are welcomed aiming at enhancing the exchange of experiences and the research development into diverse socio-geographic contexts.
- Applicants are expected to have undertaken their first and/or Master's degree in the social sciences, management, and applied studies (social work, tourism, regional, urban, or rural studies, among others).
- Applicants are expected to include active professionals with experience in projects, policies, and other initiatives conception, implementation, and/or evaluation at the local, regional, or global level build on different backgrounds.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & SYLLABUS

YEAR I	ECTS
<b>Semester I</b>	<b>30</b>
Development, societies and territories: perspectives in debate	9
Research methods and techniques	12
Research seminar	9

<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>30</b>
Project Seminar I	18
Strategies of territorial intervention	6
Elective unit	6
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>60</b>
Research & thesis preparation	57
Project Seminar II	3
<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>60</b>
Research & thesis preparation	57
Project Seminar III	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>

### Development, societies and territories: perspectives in debate

Epistemologies, paradigms, and theories relevant to the analysis of the processes of socio-economic development, particularly in the territorial context, and for the formulation of the respective interventions. Introduction to the theories and practices inter/transdisciplinary and its application to the analysis and design of theoretical models, policies, and practices for socio-territorial development.

### Research methods and techniques

Introduction to the most popular research methods and techniques for data collection and analysis in the field of socio-territorial development studies. Understanding and mobilising different methodological, and technical frameworks with a view of integrating them in interdisciplinary approaches. Developing skills to outline and implement methods, and techniques associated with various research strategies (qualitative, quantitative and mixed) and to validate, interpret, and integrate the respective data and information produced.

### Research Seminar

Training for the design and implementation of a scientific investigation, contemplating the challenges of mobilising and integrating disciplinary knowledge in inter and transdisciplinary research approaches. Practices and methods for the elaboration of in-depth reviews of scientific literature, by promoting capacities for systematic review, dialogue between authors, and identification of relevant gaps in research to the identification of innovative research issues.

### Project seminar I

Conceptualize and outline the PhD research project in the context of socio-territorial development studies. Understanding the stages of the design of a research proposal. Identification of the research question(s) anchored in the state of the art build from the starting research question. Construction of the research object, methodological approach design, and planning work. Strategies for research design, methods and results communication and publication. Importance of networking, internationalization and compliance with the best research practices.

### Strategies of territorial intervention

Strategies and models for socio-territorial intervention. Methodologies, techniques, and instruments to support territorial intervention, in order to conceive and carry out innovative projects with a focus on transdisciplinary approaches and action research. Case study analysis of territorial intervention in different socio-economic and political contexts.

### Elective units

Optional course units included in the curriculum of the course are Governance, Participation & Territorial Dynamics, and Globalization & Internationalization Strategies. However, students are permitted to opt for another 3<sup>o</sup> Cycle curricular units offered at the UTAD or to attend advanced training or PhD short courses training in another institution of higher education since that it's previously authorised by the PhD Programme Board to ensure the credits equivalence.

## PhD THESIS PROJECT

Are defined by the PhD students, and structured and delimited within the doctoral program with the support of participating lecturers and researchers. Major “umbrella” topics include:

- Global dynamics (e.g. food systems, climate change, demography, digitization, markets, migration, tourism) and sustainability, socio-ecological systems, innovation, inclusion, resilience, and/or governance of the territories.
- Socio-territorial, policy and institutional dynamics, and respective responses from the territorial development strategies, such as the policies for territorial cohesion and social inclusion, the regional innovation systems, or the strategies of smart specialisation.
- New dynamics in response to socio-territorial problems, comprising: territorial and social innovation and entrepreneurship, collaboration and holistic approaches based on living laboratory (*living lab*), empowerment of local actors enabling them to construct their own “visions of the future” resorting to transdisciplinary approaches.
- Alternative dynamics of socio-territorial development: for example, degrowth, “good living”, happiness and well-being.

The doctoral thesis can be developed on the basis of a set of scientific articles or a monography. DeST encourages the use of systematic review of the scientific literature in the construction of state-of-the-art about the research question that guides the Thesis, including bibliometric and meta-analysis, the use of mixed methods in data collection and analysis of primary and/or secondary data, or the case study approach to anchor the design of innovative research approaches in the context of socio-territorial development.

## MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

### PhD Programme Board

The **PhD Programme Board (PPB)** is responsible for implementing the programme according to its aims and to ensure the outcomes and quality thresholds. The PPB evaluates applicants to the PhD programme and proposes to the Scientific Council of the Escola de Ciências Humanas e Sociais (School of Human and Social Sciences) the students be admitted to enrol the programme. The PPB evaluates the progress of admitted students and ensures they have access to quality and interdisciplinary scientific supervision and information on advanced training opportunities within and outside the PhD programme consortium.

The PPB comprises 3 members, a chair, and 2 members. Currently, its members are: Livia Madureira (Chair), Carla Susana Marques and Octávio Sacramento.

### Course Committee

The **Course Committee (CC)** is established by the UTAD statutory regulations. It comprises the PPB and 2 students. The CC advises the PPB in respect to pedagogical aspects.

## Scientific and Pedagogical Supervisory Committee

The **Scientific and Pedagogical Supervisory Committee (SPSC)** comprises representatives of the various research centres that integrate the PhD programme network. It comprises 2 representatives of CETRAD (hosting research centre) and 1 representative of each one of the other consortium research centres (CEFAGE, CICS\_NOVA, MED, IDEGA, NECE). The SPSC advises the PPB on scientific and pedagogical aspects of the programme, the scientific supervision and evaluation of the student’s research, and the course evaluation and further development.

Currently, the SPSC is composed by Livia Madureira (CETRAD), Octávio Sacramento (CETRAD), Conceição Rego (CEFAGE), Saudade Baltazar (CICS\_NOVA), Teresa Pinto Correia (IMED), Melchor Fernandez (IDEGA), Alcino Couto (NECE).

### External Advisory Committee

The **External Advisory Committee (EAC)** comprises 5 external personalities, including professors, researchers and others, which background and experience represent an asset to the continuous improvement of the PhD programme. The EAC advises the PPB by evaluating and identifying opportunities for the PhD programme progress.

Currently, the EAC is composed by Aila-Leena Matthies (University of Jyväskylä - Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius), Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (London School of Economics), Cássio Rolim (Universidade Federal do Paraná), João Ferrão (ICS, U. Lisbon), Roberta Cappello (Polytechnic University of Milan).

## CALENDAR FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2023/24

The school year of the first year of the programme for the edition 2023/24 to 2025/26 runs between January 2024 and July 2024. Project thesis presentation is due on July or October 2024.

First semester	January to April
In-person sessions	8 <sup>th</sup> January – 17 <sup>th</sup> February
Evaluation	March – April
Second semester	May to July
In-person sessions	2 <sup>nd</sup> May – 8 <sup>th</sup> June
Evaluation	June – July
Extraordinary period for thesis project presentation	October

**Note:** In-person sessions take place at the UTAD, Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning.

## ADMISSION AND TUITION FEES

Admission process is organised at the Academic Services of UTAD. Interested students have to follow the procedures requested for inscription. The selection of the candidates is conducted by the Scientific Council of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of the UTAD based on the selection proposal of the PhD Programme Board (PPB). An annual tuition fee is due, its value is currently established in 1,250 for

national students and international (EU citizens and other) and 1,500 euros to the international students.

Additional information at

<https://www.utad.pt/estudar/en/cursos/development-societies-territories/>

<https://www.utad.pt/sa/en/home/masters-and-phds/>

## CONTACTS

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## UTAD CAMPUS



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## Learning together as a living lab



**THE EXPERIENCE SO FAR...**...this is the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the course, the second of the 2<sup>nd</sup> A3ES evaluation cycle (after a successful evaluation of the 1<sup>o</sup> cycle of six editions), counting with 23 new students in the current edition.

