Final Report 2025

EU-SPRI ECC International Conference

PHDAYS25

March 5th, 6th & 7th, at the INGENIO (CSIC-UPV) facilities in València

CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

EU SPRI European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation

ingenio CSIC-UPV

Universitat Politècnica de València

1. Event summary

Institute organizer	Institute of Innovation and Knowledge Management. INGENIO (CSIC-UPV)
Address	Ciudad Politécnica de la Innovación, 8E, 4º, Camino de Vera s/n, 46022, Valencia, Spain
Local organizing committee	Cristina Galiana, Erika Celene Sánchez, Ruth M-Domènech, Clara Furió-Vico, Davide Consoli (Senior Advisor) and Jordi Molas (Senior Advisor).
Contact info	phdays@ingenio.upv.es
Dates	March 5-7, 2025
Venue	Cubo Rojo, Ciudad Politécnica de la Innovación, 8E, 4º, Camino de Vera s/n, 46022, Valencia, Spain
Conference title	EU-SPRI ECC. 6th International PhDays Conference: Re-focusing Innovation: Governance Frames, Innovation Ecosystems and Co-creation Networks
Conference webpage	https://ingeniophdays.webs.upv.es/

2. Activities

The conference was an EU-SPRI ECC event, designed by PhD students for their peers. Its main objective was to offer early career researchers a supportive space to enhance their presentation and communication skills, receive valuable feedback from both fellow students and experienced scholars, and foster essential professional connections.

We aimed to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere where participants, regardless of their research stage, could feel at ease and confident to engage and contribute.

Within the overarching title "Re-focusing Innovation: Governance Frames, Innovation Ecosystems and Co-creation Networks", four research streams were elaborated:

- **Pushing boundaries: Redefining the limits**
  - New challenges for Innovation Studies
  - Dynamic innovation ecosystems

- **New ways of generating innovation**
    - Strategies for innovative governance
    - Netwoks toward transformation

The conference consisted of three plenary sessions, and 11 parallel sessions for the presentations of PhDs and Early Career researchers. A Gala dinner was also organized on the second day of the event (Thursday, the 6th) (see Annex 1).

At this point, it is important to highlight that, due to the orange weather alert, the regional government and the university decided to cancel classes and all teaching, work, and research activities at the Universitat Politècnica de València on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 4 and 5. Consequently, the Organising Comittee had to suspend the first day of the conference and reschedule all sessions and parallel sessions for March 6 and 7. However, on March 5, a new orange weather alert once again disrupted all educational and work activities at the university. This forced the organizing committee to change the conference format from in-person to hybrid (see Annex 2).

Thus, the second day of the conference was held online via the Teams platform. Throughout the day, a keynote presentation from Valeria Constantini was delivered, and all parallel sessions took place. On March 7, we were able to resume in-person activities, with a keynote presentation by Melanie Walker streamed for online participants and attendees, and an in-person keynote by Adrian Smith, also streamed online for remote participants.

We concluded the day and the conference with participatory dynamics, fostering networking among participants and attendees.

2.1. Parallel sessions

Each of the 11 parallel sessions lasted 1.5 hours and featured three early career presenters. In the process of drafting the program, two rules were followed:

- Speakers in the same sessions must be working on similar topics or using similar methodologies;
- Speakers in the same sessions must not be members of the same university/host institution.

The purpose of these rules was to ensure that participants could provide each other with relevant feedback and recommendations that were truly external. Early career researchers from the same university were more likely to be familiar with each other's work, so the organizing committee took measures to ensure that everyone attending the PhDays had the opportunity to receive comments from colleagues outside their host institution.

Each session was chaired by a senior researcher from INGENIO who is also a member of the scientific committee. The chair received access to the three abstracts in advance

and was tasked with not only moderating the session but also providing feedback to each of the three speakers. Presenters were allotted 30 minutes each, structured approximately as follows:

- 15 minutes for the presentation.
- 10 minutes for feedback from a senior discussant.
- 5 minutes for general Q&A.

2.2. Plenary sessions

PLENARY SESSIONS
First plenary session
Keynote speaker: Valeria Constantini
Presentation title: Environmental regulation, international linkages and innovation: A case study on the Net Zero EU targets
Second plenary session
Keynote speaker: Adrian Smith
Presentation title: From Limits to Growth to Post-growth: The International Politics of Technology in Historical Perspective
Third plenary session
Keynote speaker: Melanie Walker
Presentation title: Reparative Futures for eco-social flourishing of persons and planet

3. Participation

3.1. Criteria for participation

The event aimed to provide PhD students and early career researchers with an opportunity to present their research and receive feedback in areas relevant to Science, Technology, and Innovation policy. The selection criteria were: (1) Academic quality of the submitted abstract, (2) Alignment of the proposal topic with at least one of the four streams, and (3) Affiliation with a member of the Eu-SPRI network. Interested researchers were asked to submit an extended abstract (up to 1500 words) that included the main objectives of their research, research questions, methodology, and main findings or expected results.

3.2. Participants overview

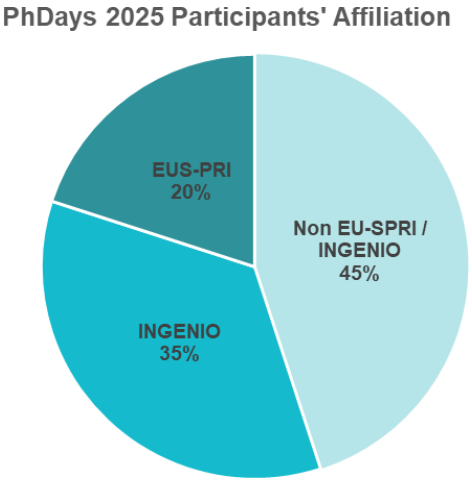
The event brought together 40 early career researchers from 19 different universities. Of these, 33 presented an abstract, while 7 registered as audience members.

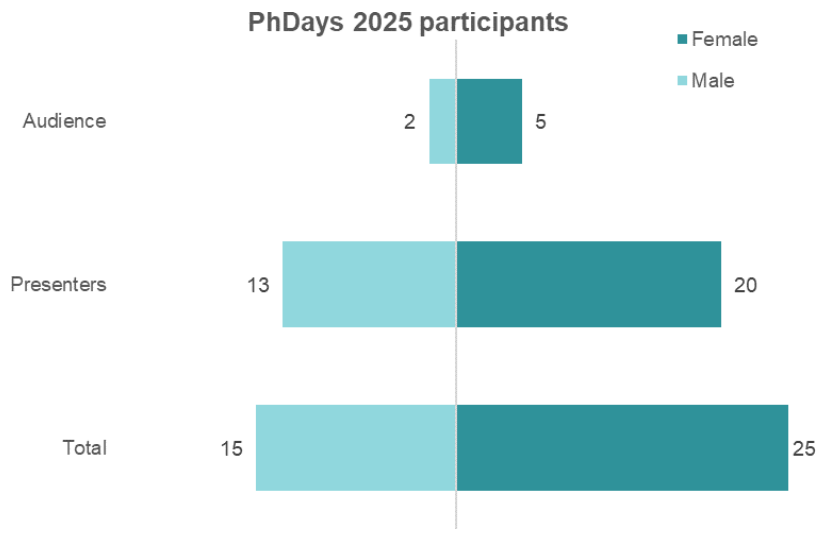
Approximately half of the participants were from Eu-SPRI member organizations. In addition to the host INGENIO, represented by 13 PhD students, participants came from institutions such as the Politecnico di Milano School of Management, the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (University of Manchester), the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development (Universiteit Utrecht), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, SPRU – Science Policy Research Unit (University of Sussex), and the Institute of Research on Economic Sustainable Growth (IRCrES-CNR).

While it is true that, unlike previous editions, international participation by Eu-SPRI doctoral students has slightly declined. The Organizing Committee began preparing for the event in May 2024, due to rising prices in Valencia, the committee had to revise the event budget several times, which led to the postponement of all stipulated deadlines. In this regard, one of the reasons could be the shorter timeframe participants had from the time the conference was announced on official social media until they submitted their proposals.

It is also important to note the gender balance of the conference: 63% of all participants were

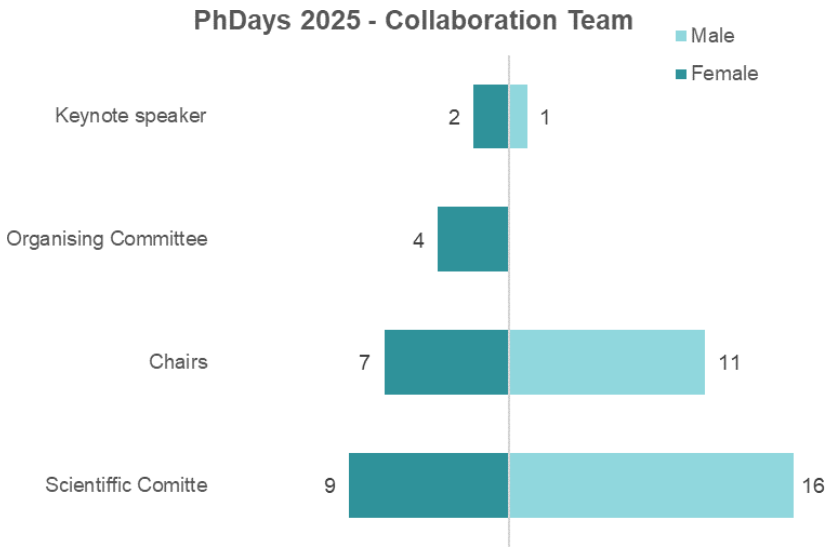
women, counting presenters and attendees combined. Among speakers, a positive balance was also achieved with 2 female speakers and 1 male speaker. As for the scientific committee, it was composed of 36% women researchers and 64% men researchers.





The event was supported by a group of 25 researchers and colleagues from INGENIO, who contributed to the formation of an excellent scientific committee. All were experts in one of the four main thematic lines proposed for this edition.

In addition, 18 of these INGENIO researchers collaborated as chairs of the parallel sessions, ensuring the quality and smooth flow of the discussions.



The organising committee was composed of four PhD students from INGENIO, who coordinated the overall planning and execution of the conference.

The programme also featured three keynote speakers, each closely aligned with the conference's thematic areas, enriching the event with their insights and perspectives.

4. Scientific committee

The scientific committee was composed of 27 senior researchers from INGENIO, who also served as chairs and discussants during the parallel sessions of the conference. The diversity of INGENIO's research agenda and the extensive experience of its academics ensured a suitable match between the participants' topics of interest and the discussants' areas of expertise. The table below summarizes the members of the scientific committee.

- Adrián A. Díaz-Faes, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Alejandra Boni Aristizabal, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Álvaro Fernández-Baldor Martinez, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Ana María Gómez Aguayo, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Carlos Delgado Caro, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Carola Calabuig Tormo, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Cédric Gossart, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Cristina Chaminade, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Davide Consoli, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Diana Carolina Velasco Malaver, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Irene Monsonís Payá, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Joaquín María Azagra Caro, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Jordi Peris Blanes, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Jordi Molas Gallart, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- José David Barberá Tomás, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- José-Félix Lozano Aguilar, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Marta Maicas-Pérez, Universitat de València.
- Pablo D'Este, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Pedro Marques, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Raquel Luján Soto, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Richard Woolley, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Rocío Poveda Bautista, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).
- Rosa Inés Esteban Amaro, INGENIO (CSIC-UPV).

5. Communication and dissemination activities

Considerable effort was dedicated to promoting the event before, during, and after the conference. The call for abstracts was launched in December 2024 and disseminated through INGENIO's website and social media channels. Information about the call was also shared via the Eu-SPRI mailing list, the social media accounts of INGENIO's senior researchers, and the websites of partner institutes working on related topics. A dedicated website was created for the conference, providing a clear overview of key information including themes, speakers, workshops, and participation requirements.

A few weeks before the official start of the conference, INGENIO's LinkedIn page published an article highlighting what to expect from the carefully curated three-day programme. Additionally, a promotional postcard featuring each of the invited PhDays speakers was shared on INGENIO's Twitter account.

During the event, a Telegram group was created to efficiently share practical and real-time updates on venues, last-minute changes to the programme, informal gatherings, and more.

Following the conference, a blog post was published on INGENIO's official LinkedIn channel reflecting on the positive feedback received from participants.

6. Outcomes

At the end of the conference, all participants received an official certificate reflecting their involvement in the event:

- Presenter Certificate.
- Attendee Certificate.
- Organizing Committee Certificate.
- Chair Certificate.

Additionally, as a new feature this year, participants were asked to submit an extended abstract of approximately 1,500 words. This short paper will have its own DOI in addition to the ISB of the Conference Proceedings, promoting wider dissemination of the presented papers.

The data of the collection is shown below:

- TITLE: PhDays 2025 Conference Proceedings
- EDIT: INGENIO (CSIC-UPV), Universitat Politècnica de València
- ISBN: 978-84-09-48992-3
- LANGUAGE: English X

7. Economic justification

The total cost of the conference amounted to 21.078,23 €. Of this, EU-SPRI contributed 9.841,75 €, covering 46.69% of the total budget. INGENIO funded the event with 8.297,98 €, representing 39.37% of the total. The remaining 13.94%, equivalent to 2.938,50 €, was covered through participant fees from non-EU-SPRI attendees. The budget was balanced, and no surplus was generated.

Annexes

Annex 1. Official program.

<table>
<tr><th>Time</th><th>Wednesday, March 5</th><th>Thursday, March 6</th><th>Friday, March 7</th></tr>
<tr><td>09:00
09:30</td><td>Accreditations – Red Cube Hall</td><td>Accreditations – Red Cube Hall</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>09:30
10:00</td><td>Welcome Session – INGENIO (CSIC-UPV) – Red Cube Auditorium</td><td rowspan="2">Plenary by Adrian Smith – Red Cube Auditorium
"From Limits to Growth to Post-growth: Politics of Tech. in Historical Perspective"</td><td rowspan="2">Plenary by Valeria Constantini – Red Cube Auditorium</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:00
10:30</td><td rowspan="2">Plenary by Melanie Walker – Red Cube Auditorium
"Reparative Futures for eco-social flourishing of persons and planet"</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:30
11:00</td><td>Coffee Break – Purple Cube Hall</td><td>Coffee Break – Purple Cube Hall</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:00
11:30</td><td>Coffee Break – Purple Cube Hall</td><td rowspan="3">Parallel Sessions 7 & 8 (Red Cube)
- Session 7: Descubre Room
- Session 8: Debate Room</td><td rowspan="3">Networking & Collective Synergy Activity
Purple Cube Terrace (if no rain)
Red Cube Hall (if rain)</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:30
12:00</td><td rowspan="3">Parallel Sessions 1 & 2 (Red Cube)
- Session 1: Descubre Room
- Session 2: Debate Room</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:00
12:30</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:30
13:00</td><td rowspan="3">Lunch – Purple Cube Hall</td><td rowspan="2">Lunch – Purple Cube Hall</td><td>Closing Session – INGENIO (CSIC-UPV) – Red Cube Auditorium</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:00
13:30</td><td rowspan="2">Lunch – Purple Cube Hall</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:30
14:00</td><td rowspan="3">Parallel Sessions 9 & 10 (Red Cube)
- Session 9: Descubre Room
- Session 10: Debate Room</td><td rowspan="6"></td></tr>
<tr><td>14:00
14:30</td><td rowspan="3">Parallel Sessions 3 & 4 (Red Cube)
- Session 3: Descubre Room
- Session 4: Debate Room</td></tr>
<tr><td>14:30
15:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>15:00
15:30</td><td>Coffee Break – Purple Cube Hall</td></tr>
<tr><td>15:30
16:00</td><td>Coffee Break – Purple Cube Hall</td><td rowspan="3">Parallel Sessions 11 (Red Cube)
- Session 11: Descubre Room</td></tr>
<tr><td>16:00
16:30</td><td rowspan="3">Parallel Sessions 5 & 6 (Red Cube)
- Session 5: Descubre Room
- Session 6: Debate Room</td></tr>
<tr><td>16:30
17:00</td></tr>
<tr><td>17:00
17:30</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>20:00</td><td></td><td>Gala Dinner – Puerta de la Mar</td></tr>
</table>

Annex 2. Program modified because of orange alert.

<table>
<tr><th>Time</th><th>Thursday, March 6 (ONLINE)</th><th>Friday, March 7 (HYBRID)</th></tr>
<tr><td>08:45
09:00</td><td>Welcome Session – INGENIO (CSIC-UPV)</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>09:00
10:30</td><td>Plenary by Valeria Constantini</td><td>Plenary by Adrian Smith
Red Cube Auditorium & ONLINE</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:30
11:00</td><td>Break</td><td>Coffee Break – Purple Cube Hall</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:00 -
12:30</td><td>Parallel Sessions 1, 3, 7 & 8</td><td>Plenary by Melanie Walker (online)
Red Cube Auditorium & ONLINE</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:30
13:00</td><td rowspan="2">Break</td><td>Closing Session – Red Cube Auditorium</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:00
13:30</td><td rowspan="2">Lunch – Purple Cube Hall</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:30
14:00</td><td rowspan="2">Parallel Sessions 2, 4, 9 & 10</td></tr>
<tr><td>14:00
15:00</td><td rowspan="2">Networking & Collective Synergy Activity
Red Cube Hall</td></tr>
<tr><td>15:00
15:30</td><td>Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>15:30
17:00</td><td>Parallel Sessions 5, 6 & 11</td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td>20:00</td><td>Gala Dinner – Puerta de la Mar</td></tr>
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