

EU GREEN Research Week 2026

Workshop 3 – Participant Pitch Session

Connecting **Researchers, Ideas** and
Future Collaborations



Participant Pitch Session

Research Expertise, Project Ideas and
Collaboration Opportunities



Let's Get Started!

A series of short pitches to introduce expertise, project ideas and collaboration interests.



Discovering expertise, identifying synergies and exploring future collaborations.





Anabela Coelho
Professor
University of Évora
PhD in International Health
MsC Public Health



Research Focus:

- Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) and Patient-Reported Experience Measures (PREMs)
- Lifestyle Nursing and person-centred care models
- Integrated care, quality in health and health innovation
- Healthy ageing, chronic disease management and health literacy

Experience:

- Associate Professor with Aggregation at Universidade de Évora
- Researcher at Comprehensive Health Research Centre and Global Health and Tropical Medicine
- Senior management for 19 years within the Portuguese Ministry of Health, coordinating national programmes of integrated care, quality in health, patient safety, and health innovation
- Invited expert in European and international health projects and policy networks (WHO-EU, OECD, etc)

Looking For:

- Strategic partners to **co-develop a European Master in Lifestyle Nursing**
- Partners in **PROMs/PREMs implementation and validation**
- Horizon Europe and EU-funded collaborative projects
- Institutions working in healthy ageing, lifestyle interventions, and digital health

***Lifestyle Nursing for healthier people and a healthier planet:** connecting health promotion, digital innovation, green transition, and international cooperation.*

Name of Call



Prof. Dr. Elena Botezat

University of Oradea,
Faculty of Economic
Sciences

Research Focus:

- Digital Transformation in Business
- Resilient and Future-Ready Workforce

Experience:

- No Horizon Europe projects experience
- 7 European-funded projects

Looking For:

- experienced Horizon coordinators
- HR and workforce development experts



Prof. Dr. Fernando Fajardo

Faculty of Education and Psychology . Director of the University Institute for Educational Research and Foresight (INPEX). Representative of Cluster 5-EU GREEN ALLIANCE. University of Extremadura (UEX). Spain.

[Links](#)

CALLS: HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-04: The impact of the use of digital tools outside school and for communication on educational outcomes and mental health /
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-02: Innovative interventions to prevent the harmful effects of using digital technologies on the mental health of children and young adults

Research Focus:

- Psychological wellbeing and social inclusion
- Educational performance and problematic internet use.
- Adolescence and youth

Experience:

- 1 Horizon Europe Project, 1 Biodiversa, 1 COST Action.
- Regional, National, European and international research Projects.
- Coordination and access to NGO, University and adolescent students and private technology company

Looking For:

- Seeks a Consortium/Coordinator.
- We are looking for a consortium where our work on psychology and education from a social sciences perspective, can be recognized and useful for studying the impact of digital technologies in children and young adults' mental health, academic performance and social exclusion.

Identifying social exclusion, psychological well-being, problematic internet use and its impact on education among adolescents and young people.

Our project idea

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-04: The impact of the use of digital tools outside school and for communication on educational outcomes and mental health

Main objectives: Analyze and measure the relationship between the use of digital technologies, academic performance, mental health and social exclusion in adolescents and young people.

- ▶ Our research team offers a strong and complementary set of resources to study the relationships between academic performance, problematic internet use, mental health, social exclusion, gambling, and problematic video game use. We provide **direct access to secondary schools** and to a **large university population** of more than 22,000 students at the University of Extremadura (UEX), enabling large-scale and longitudinal research across educational stages.
- ▶ We maintain established collaborations with the **NGO Cáritas**, allowing research in **socially vulnerable contexts** and facilitating the analysis of digital inequalities and exclusion processes. In addition, our partnerships with **technology companies** support the **development and validation of app-based psychological assessment and monitoring tools**.
- ▶ Scientifically, our team contributes strong expertise in **quantitative data analysis** and a **solid publication record in mental health**, screen-related and gaming-related addictions, academic performance, video game use, and social exclusion. This work is embedded within an interdisciplinary research institute in education and psychology, providing access to a network of more than 135 researchers and academic staff at UEX.



Our Project Idea

HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-TRANSFO-04

The impact of the use of digital tools outside school on educational outcomes and mental health and young people

Idea Explained

Problematic internet use, video gaming, gambling, and social media engagement are increasingly linked to negative outcomes, in **mental health, academic performance, and social inclusion** among adolescents and young people. Persistent digital divides continue to exacerbate social exclusion across Europe (OECD, 2023). >>>>

Our Team's Strengths to Offer:

- Direct Access**
We provide access to secondary schools and a large university population of over 22,000 students at the University of Extremadura (UEX)
- NGO Partnership**
We collaborate with Cáritas to research digital inequalities and exclusion processes in socially vulnerable contexts.
- Technology Collaboration**
We work with technology companies to develop and validate app-based psychological assessment and monitoring tools.
- Scientific Expertise**
We have strong expertise and a solid publication record in **mental health, gaming addictions, social exclusion, and academic performance**.

Interdisciplinary Research Network
▶ Embedded in a network of **135+ education & psychology researchers**

Expertise of the research team at University Institute for Educational Research and Foresight (INPEX)- UEx.



Research experience:

- ✓ Horizon Europe
- ✓ Biodiversa
- ✓ COST Action
- ✓ National and regional projects
- ✓ High-impact publications
- ✓ International coordination



Expertise and technical capacity:

- ✓ Interdisciplinary team (Psychology, Sociology, Economics, Communication)
- ✓ Mental health and social inclusion research
- ✓ App development: Mental health risks
- ✓ Problematic internet use
- ✓ Gambling and social exclusion
- ✓ Advanced data analysis



Networks and access to target groups:

- ✓ Secondary schools in Extremadura
- ✓ 10+ years collaboration with Caritas (NGO)
- ✓ Links with tech and AI companies (ICT Business Association)
- ✓ University of Extremadura (32,000+ students)
- ✓ Access to university and adolescent students
- ✓ INPEX Institute: 135+ researchers (Psychology and Education)



**Extremadura Research Chair in
Cardiovascular Risk Reduction**
*Cátedra de Investigación en Reducción de Riesgo
Cardiovascular de Extremadura*



Prof. Guillermo Gervasini
University of Extremadura,
Faculty of medicine



Health

FDA Renews Authorization for Five IQOS Products to be Marketed with Exposure Modification Claims

Following FDA's rigorous scientific review, FDA issued a renewal of modified risk granted orders to [Philip Morris Products S.A. \(PMP S.A.\)](#) for two IQOS system holders and chargers and three flavors of HeatSticks products. With this renewal, these five products may be marketed with the following exposure modification claim:

AVAILABLE EVIDENCE TO DATE:

- The IQOS system heats tobacco but does not burn it.
- This significantly reduces the production of harmful and potentially harmful chemicals.
- Scientific studies have shown that switching completely from conventional cigarettes to the IQOS system significantly reduces your body's exposure to harmful or potentially harmful chemicals.

FDA NEWS RELEASE

FDA Authorizes Marketing of 20 ZYN Nicotine Pouch Products after Extensive Scientific Review

Agency Will Closely Monitor Youth Use and Company's Compliance with Marketing Restrictions

For Immediate Release:

January 16, 2025

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the marketing of 20 ZYN nicotine pouch products through the [premarket tobacco product application \(PMTA\) \(/tobacco-products/market-and-distribute-tobacco-product/premarket-tobacco-product-applications\)](#) pathway following an extensive scientific review. This is the first time the agency has authorized products commonly referred to as [nicotine pouches \(https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-ingredients-components/other-tobacco-products#Nicotine%20Pouches\)](#), which are small synthetic fiber pouches containing nicotine designed to be placed between a person's gum and lip.

Nicotine pouches



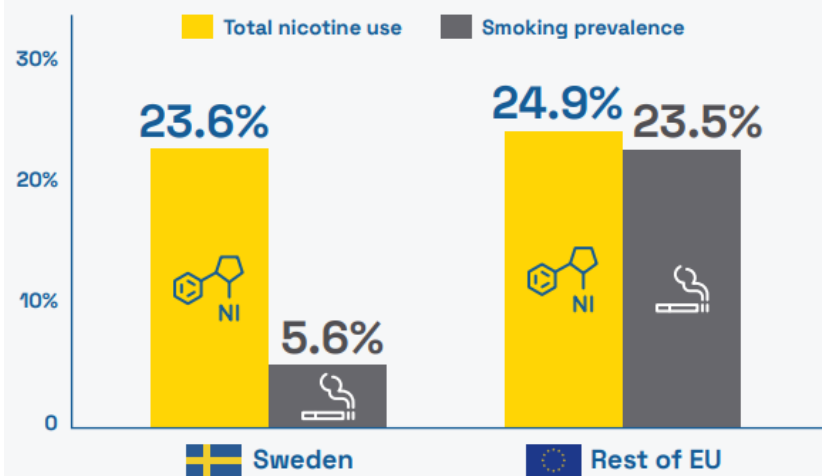
“Our results suggest that adults may be using nicotine pouches for harm reduction given that use is highest among those that have recently quit another tobacco product or e-cigarettes.”

Cristine D. Delnevo

Director, Rutgers Institute for Nicotine and Tobacco Studies

The Swedish model

Current total nicotine use and smoking rate



Sweden



Rest of EU

Smoking Prevalence
(% of adults)

5.6%

23.5%

accessible)

Significantly fewer smokers

Deaths related to tobacco
(per 100,000)

138.9

176.2

21.2% fewer tobacco-related deaths

Lung cancer deaths related to tobacco
(per 100,000)

29.1

45.5

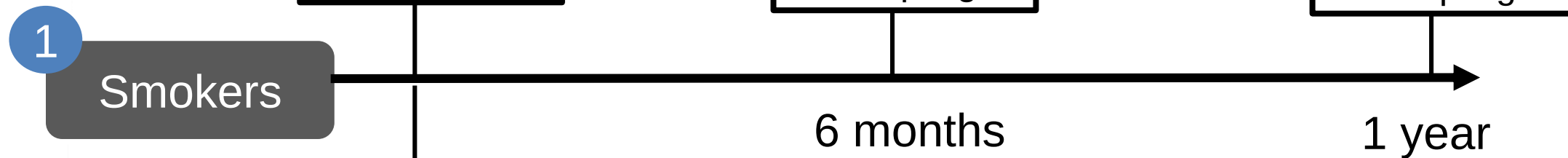
36% fewer lung cancer deaths

Cardiovascular disease deaths related to tobacco
(per 100,000)

44.1

50.1

12% fewer cardiovascular disease deaths



Pouches

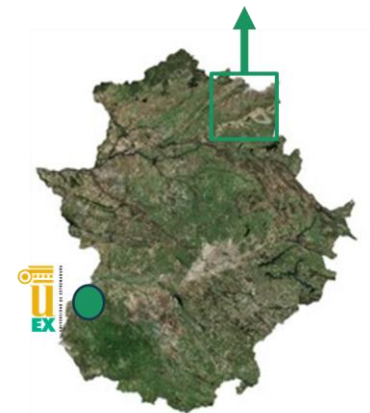
CV and renal biomarkers

- Albuminuria (ACR)
- eGFR
- Creatinine
- Cistatin C
- hsPCR
- IL6
- Beta2 Microglobulin
- Cyanoethyl mercapturic acid (CEMA)



Economics-Sociology

- ❑ Extremadura concentrates **99%** of tobacco cultivation in Spain
- ❑ Extremadura is **#1** tobacco-producing region in EU
- ❑ **2,000** full-time jobs
- ❑ Prevents rural depopulation in Extremadura.
- ❑ The region exports **74%** of its production



Economics-Sociology

- ❑ Model **potential reduction in healthcare expenditure** if smokers switched to non-combustion nicotine products
- ❑ Evaluate how smokers, young adults, healthcare professionals, tobacco farmers, and the general population **perceive new nicotine products**
- ❑ Assess how a **gradual transition** toward alternative nicotine products could affect farmers, rural employment, exports, etc. in a tobacco-producing region
- ❑ Investigate whether harm reduction strategies could reduce **health inequalities** associated with smoking

Proposal



Prof. Guillermo Gervasini
University of Extremadura,
Faculty of medicine

- ❑ **Research Focus:** Cardiorenal impact of new forms of tobacco: heated tobacco, nicotine pouches
- ❑ **Experience:** National projects on identification of biomarkers of chronic kidney disease and its CV implications
- ❑ **Looking For:** Research partners in the field who can transcend cluster 1 aims (economics, sociological factors...)



[HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-09](#) (Multisectoral approach to tackle chronic non-communicable diseases)



- ☐ Hot topic
- ☐ Alignment with EU priority diseases (CV and CKD)
- ☐ Clear evidence gap
- ☐ Cost of chronic disease is a major funding driver
- ☐ Extremadura provides a rare EU-relevant case study



- ☐ Institutional skepticism toward “*harm reduction*”
- ☐ Perception of an entry pathway for new users
- ☐ Industry influence
- ☐ Different regulations between countries

Proposal (II)



Prof. Guillermo Gervasini
University of Extremadura,
Faculty of medicine

- ❑ **Research Focus:** Cardiovascular biomarkers of chronic non-communicable diseases
- ❑ **Experience:** National projects on identification of biomarkers of chronic kidney disease and its CV implications
- ❑ **Looking For:** Research partners in the field who can transcend cluster 1 aims (AI engineering)

HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-TOOL-01-two-stage

Development of predictive biomarkers of disease progression and treatment response by using AI methodologies for chronic non-communicable diseases

Deadline model	Planned opening date	Deadline dates
two-stage	10 February 2027	13 April 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time 22 September 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time

- ❑ **Objective:** develop and validate multimodal predictive biomarkers for chronic non-communicable diseases using AI applied and real-world data
- ❑ **Key project requirements:**
 - Multidisciplinary consortium
 - Independent clinical validation of biomarkers
 - Trustworthy, explainable, and bias-aware AI

HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-TRANSFO-05

The effective use of artificial intelligence in learning environments in pre-primary and primary education



Prof. Dr. Karina Becker
OVGU Magdeburg
Faculty of Humanities

Research Focus:

- Teaching and Learning in an Inclusive and Postmigrant Society
- Teaching and Learning with Artificial Intelligence

Experience:

- **Erasmus+ Project** (teacher training and the effect on pupils' emotions and language skills)
- **EU GREEN seed funding** (conference: Growing up the Future. Education for Sustainability; surveys: BASE and CRESO)

Looking For:

- AI experts
- (pre)primary education experts

Artificial intelligence can help to reduce social inequality, can ensure inclusive education, and can support learning by addressing emotions in authentic/virtual learning environments.



Magalie Moysan
Angers University +
Literature and Social
sciences faculty

Calls Horizon CL2 - HERITAGE

Research Focus:

- Preservation of the archives of nature conservation organizations
- The Relationship of Naturalists to Their Records

Experience:

- Newcomer to EU Green
- Regional project carried out in 2024–2026

Looking For:

- Well-being experts
- Plant sciences and life sciences experts
- Researchers in sociology or ethnography



Assoc. Prof., PhD, Marius Drugas

University of Oradea, Faculty
of Social and Humanistic
Studies

Research Focus:

- Radicalization
- Use of LLM/AI in education

Experience:

- 2 national projects coordinated (aim: institutional development)
- Member (researcher position) in research projects

Looking For:

- Partners / coordinators of Horizon projects in the field of radicalization and/or use of LLM/AI in education

AI Education Can Prevent Youth Radicalization Through Critical Thinking and Digital Resilience

N/A



Research Focus:

- Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS)
- AI for Medical Imaging
- Large Language Models in Medicine

Experience:

- CBC Projects

**Assoc.prof.PhD. Eng.
Moldovan Ovidiu
Gheorghe**

University of Oradea
Department of Robotics
and Mechatronics

Biomechanics & Movement Analysis

Nonlinear methods to understand, monitor and guide human movement



My area of expertise is **Biomechanics**, specifically **movement analysis**, using nonlinear methods to characterize, monitor, and help guide interventions and training.

Nonlinear Methods



Phase Space Analysis



Nonlinear Time Series Analysis



Fractal Analysis



Complexity Measures

3 PhD Projects – Different Populations, Common Approach

1. Pre-retirees & Retirees



Initiating sensorimotor training to minimize age-related declines that can impact quality of life.



2. Dementia & Handwriting



Deterioration in handwriting may be an early indicator of the onset of dementia.



3. Achondroplasia



Characterization of patients with achondroplasia.



Common Assessment

All populations are evaluated through analysis of:



Postural Control

Stability, balance and postural strategies



Gait Analysis

Spatiotemporal parameters, kinematics and variability



Research output

~10 scientific articles published across these 3 PhD projects.



Goal

To advance knowledge using nonlinear methods and apply them to real-world challenges in different populations and areas.



Interests

Discussing these methods and their applications in various fields.

**Assoc. Prof. PhD.
Orlando Fernandes**
University of Évora
Proto-Department of
Sport and Health

Jennie Jackson - University of Gävle



- Occupational health scientist - inclusive, health promoting working life
- Physical, mental, social elements of work and their relationship to health
- Organizational, managerial, group, individual level elements and how they impact exposure and health
- Inclusive work environment - labour market access, health promoting work, return to work --- sex/gender, ethnicity (place of birth), age, neurodiversity
- Industry 5.0 - digital transformation and effect on how the worker: how work is organized and performed
- Economical aspects of worker health - organizational and worker resiliency
- Heart rate variability, EMG, physical behavioural compositions, compositional data analysis, economic models, intervention research



George Onofrei

PhD - SFHEA

Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor
Operations & Supply Chain Management
Atlantic Technological University, Ireland



LinkedIn Profile

Sustainability & Operations Research

Head of OSCAR Centre - ATU Ireland - Visiting Prof: UCD - Ulster - Parma - Belgrade

RESEARCH AREAS

Sustainable Supply Chains

Due diligence, CSR, circular economy, green certification

Sustainability in Higher Ed

Student engagement, ESG, SDG integration in curricula

Circular Economy & Social Innovation

Circular business models, reverse logistics, waste management

Green & Lean Operations

Quality-lean-environment synergies, process innovation

Industry 5.0 & Digitalisation

Analytics, maintenance, supply chain resilience and AI

Behavioral operations

Systems dynamics, psychological safety, value congruence

RESEARCH IMPACT

60+

Journal Papers

6

Books/Chapters

5

Best Paper Awards

RESEARCH FUNDING

€18M+ total research funding secured

€5.7M

E-DATA (SME Digitalisation)

SEIPIB Ulster Univ / ATU - 2025-26

€1.3M

OSCAR PhD Programme

TU Transformation Fund - 2022-26

€9.6M

CAMBER Low Carbon

Interreg / EU - 2017-20

€400K

Engineering Education for Sustainability

Erasmus+ - 2024-26

🏆 Best Paper - EuOMA 2013 - Irish Research Council Ally Award 2021 - Lean Business Ireland Award 2019 - Best Paper - EU Green Conference, Magdeburg 2026

Participants without a pre-submitted pitch

You are invited to briefly introduce yourself
(30–45 seconds)



Please tell us:

- Your name and institution
- Your research area / expertise
- A project idea or topic of interest
- What kind of partners or expertise you are looking for



Objective:

“

“This is who I am and what I am looking for”

”



Thank You to All Presenters!



Thank you for sharing your **expertise**,
ideas and **collaboration** interests.



Your contributions are essential for
building future **partnerships** and **project**
opportunities within EU GREEN.

