



PROJECT NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #01 · JUNE 2026

AI-NATIVE 6G · MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE DOCTORAL NETWORK

Building the **intelligent** terrain of 6G.

Welcome to the first newsletter of 6G-TERRAIN. From our kick-off to our first in-person gathering, this edition follows the people powering the project: the ten doctoral candidates designing a **Native AI-driven 6G system** that unites terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks.

DOCTORAL
CANDIDATES

HOST
INSTITUTIONS

COUNTRIES
ACROSS EUROPE

MONTHS OF
RESEARCH

01 PROJECT LAUNCH

A collaborative start for an AI-native vision

The **6G-TERRAIN** journey officially began with the project's kick-off, where the full consortium aligned on an ambitious mission: to design and validate a **Native AI-driven 6G system** that seamlessly integrates multi-stakeholder, multi-technology nodes across both **terrestrial and non-terrestrial** networks, together with its enabling technologies and theoretical frameworks. The project is funded under Horizon Europe's MSCA Doctoral Networks programme.

To deliver this vision, 6G-TERRAIN brings together a consortium of leading European academic and industry partners: **ATHENA Research Center (ISI)** as coordinator, together with **EURECOM**, the **University of Bremen**, **Nokia**, **IBM** and **Iquadrat**. This

collaborative start set the strategic direction and forged the partnerships now driving the project forward.



The consortium aligning on the 6G-TERRAIN vision at the project kick-off.

02

MEET THE COHORT

Welcoming our ten Doctoral Candidates

Recruited from a global pool of applicants, the [ten 6G-TERRAIN Doctoral Candidates](#) are now fully onboarded across our consortium partners, the core research engine of the project. Their expertise spans **intent-based networking**, **integrated sensing & communication**, **native AI analytics**, **beamforming** and the **cloud-edge continuum**.

You can read each Doctoral Candidate's full profile and research focus on our [Fellows page](#).



**DC-01****Martino Chiarani**

Iquadrat (Spain)

Native AI decision automation for real-time, conflict-free adaptation of network intents.

**DC-02****Srushti Gangadhar Surpur**

ISI / ATHENA R.C. (Greece)

Native AI analytics: energy-aware, distributed intelligence for 6G systems.

ES**DC-03****Ethan Sánchez Hidalgo**

IBM · Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)

Agentic AI frameworks for self-configurable, next-generation 6G networks.

AR**DC-04****Adnan Al Rawass**

ISI / ATHENA R.C. (Greece)

Automated multi-domain intent decomposition using LLMs and RLHF.

MH**DT**

DC-05**Mehdi Hassani**

EURECOM (France)

Semantic understanding & feasibility assessment in intent-based management.

DC-06**Dimitrios Tsoukalas**

Iquadrat (Spain)

Intent translation & actuation, turning human language into network intent.

SM**AB****DC-07****Shashang Murali**

Nokia (Germany)

Boosting ICAS performance in 6G unified 3D networks.

DC-08**Ahmed Abdelbasit Badr**

University of Bremen (Germany)

Mobility-aware joint sensing & communication in intent-driven TNTN 6G.

HZ**MR****DC-09****DC-10**

Hadj Mebarek Zegrar

University of Bremen (Germany)

Intent-aware integrated
communication, computation & sensing
for 3D networks.

Mohammad Rehan

EURECOM (France)

gNB FR2 sensing for optimised, low-
overhead beamforming.

03**CONSORTIUM MILESTONE**

Mid-Term Meeting in Barcelona

The 6G-TERRAIN consortium completed its **Mid-Term Meeting** in the vibrant city of Barcelona, graciously hosted by **Iquadrat**. The milestone was extra special: it was the first time the project's doctoral candidates gathered **in person**, presenting their work, building connections and reinforcing collaboration as the project enters its next phase.

We were also honoured by the presence of the **Project Officer from the European Research Executive Agency (REA)**, who witnessed firsthand the strong cooperation and shared commitment driving the initiative forward.



The 6G-TERRAIN team together in person for the first time, hosted by Iquadrat in Barcelona.

04 ENGAGING THE INDUSTRY

6G-TERRAIN showcased at ISE 2026

6G-TERRAIN proudly participated in **Integrated Systems Europe (ISE) 2026**, held in Barcelona from 3-6 February, one of the world's leading exhibitions for innovative and integrated technologies. The event was an excellent platform to present the project's vision and early progress in advancing **explainable automation for future 6G infrastructures**.

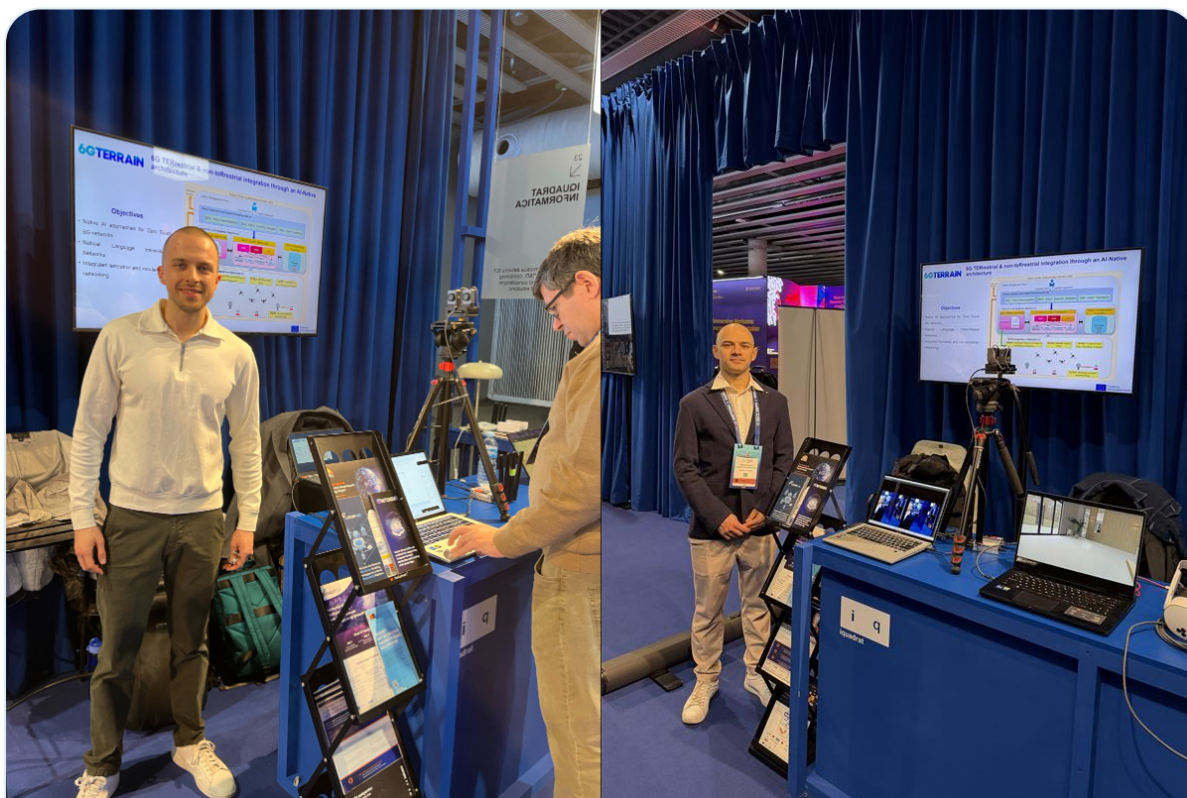
The project was featured at **Iquadrat's booth**, located in the Govern de Catalunya Pavilion at Fira Barcelona, fostering insightful discussions with industry leaders on the evolving landscape of next-generation connectivity. On the ground, 6G-TERRAIN was represented by our doctoral candidates **DC-01 Martino Chiarani** and **DC-06 Dimitrios Tsoukalas**.

Fira Barcelona

Govern de Catalunya Pavilion · CS100

Booth 23

3-6 Feb 2026



6G-TERRAIN on display at Iquadrat's booth during ISE 2026 in Barcelona.

05 SCIENCE OUTREACH

Connecting with the next generation

A special day for the doctoral candidates from **ATHENA Research Center (ISI)**: they welcomed a group of first-year middle school students from **Corinth**, in the Peloponnese, to the Computer Engineering & Informatics Department (CEID) at the University of Patras.

DC-02 Srushti Gangadhar Surpur and **DC-04 Adnan Al Rawass** introduced the students to emerging technologies in an engaging, accessible way, explaining the fundamentals of **6G communication networks** and **Artificial Intelligence**, and showing how the 6G-TERRAIN project turns advanced research into practical solutions that touch everyday life. The students' curiosity created a lively, inspiring atmosphere, a reminder of why connecting education and research matters.



DC-02 Srushti Gangadhar Surpur and DC-04 Adnan Al Rawass sparking curiosity about 6G & AI with students from Corinth at CEID, University of Patras.



LOOKING AHEAD

The road to a self-driving 6G

With the cohort complete and the first milestones behind us, 6G-TERRAIN now moves deeper into developing and validating its AI-native automation architecture across real testbeds. Expect more research results, training activities and public appearances in the editions to come.

6G-TERRAIN

THE 6G-TERRAIN CONSORTIUM



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Έρευνα & Καινοτομία
Τεχνολογίες Πληροφορίας

ISI / ATHENA R.C.
COORDINATOR



EURECOM



Universität
Bremen

University of Bremen



Nokia



IBM



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