

# 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.

**10**  
DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

**6**  
HOST INSTITUTIONS

**5**  
COUNTRIES ACROSS EUROPE

**48**  
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 Bell Labs**, **IBM** and **Iquadrat Informatica**. 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 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](#).

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**DC-01**  
**Martino Chiarani**  
Iquadrat Informatica(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.
- 

**DC-03**  
**Ethan Sanchez Hidalgo**  
IBM - Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)  
Agentic AI frameworks for self-configurable, next-generation 6G networks.
- 

**DC-04**  
**Adnan Al Rawass**  
ISI / ATHENA R.C. (Greece)  
Automated multi-domain intent decomposition using LLMs and RLHF.
- 

**DC-05**  
**Mehdi Hassani**  
EURECOM (France)  
Semantic understanding & feasibility assessment in intent-based management.
- 

**DC-06**  
**Dimitrios Tsoukalas**  
Iquadrat Informatica(Spain)  
Intent translation & actuation, turning human language into network intent.
- 

**DC-07**  
**Shashang Murali**  
Nokia Bell Labs (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.
- 

**DC-09**  
**Hadj Mebarek Zegrar**  
University of Bremen (Germany)  
Intent-aware integrated communication, computation & sensing for 3D networks.
- 

**DC-10**  
**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 Informatica**. 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.



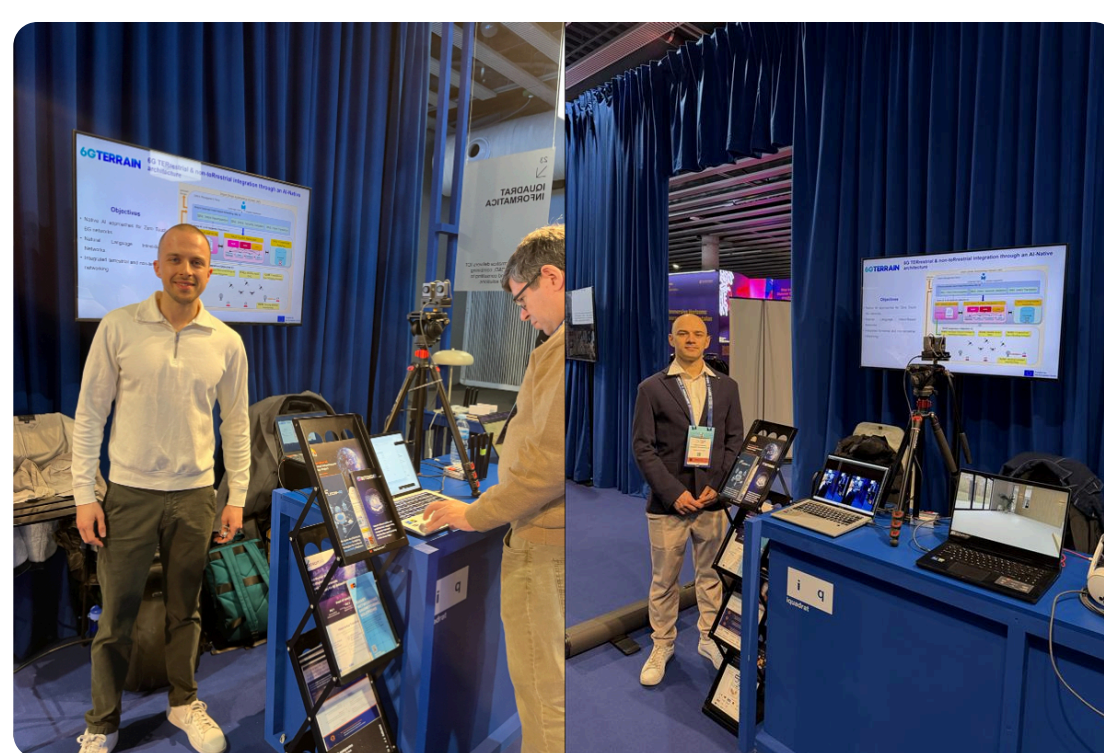
The 6G-TERRAIN team together in Barcelona, hosted by Iquadrat Informatica.

## 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. On the ground, 6G-TERRAIN was represented by our doctoral candidates **DC-01 Martino Chiarani** and **DC-06 Dimitrios Tsoukalas**.



6G-TERRAIN at Iquadrat's booth during ISE 2026.

## 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 project turns advanced research into practical solutions that touch everyday life.



DC-02 Srushti Gangadhar Surpur



DC-04 Adnan Al Rawass

## 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.



THE 6G-TERRAIN CONSORTIUM



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