Università Iuav di Venezia

Santa Croce 191 / Tolentini
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Bruxelles, December 10th 2024

PIONEER Alliance: Iuav and New Research Perspectives for European Cities

The University Iuav of Venice, in collaboration with the Veneto Region, is organizing an event to present the PIONEER project to the Italian community in Brussels.

Iuav, in collaboration with nine other European universities, has secured €14 million in funding through the European Universities Alliance under the Erasmus scheme. The project, known as the PIONEER Alliance, also involves the Veneto Region as a Supporting Partner, along with Unioncamere del Veneto and the Fondazione Venezia Capitale Mondiale della Sostenibilità as Associate Partners. The initiative aims to create a Knowledge Hub that strengthens the three key missions of universities: education, research, and third mission activities, with a focus on tackling the challenges of sustainable urban development (SDG 11).

Within the PIONEER Alliance project, Iuav holds a strategic role as the Work Package Leader for the Research pillar. This position allows Iuav to lead the development of a shared competitive research strategy and coordinate actions among the partner universities. Iuav also plays a key role in fostering cooperation with local stakeholders, involving both public and private entities to identify new research and innovation paths that can generate tangible impacts. This leadership represents an opportunity to position Iuav as a key player in the European research landscape, particularly regarding challenges linked to sustainable urban development.

The event “PIONEER Alliance: Iuav and New Research Perspectives for European Cities” is designed to present the PIONEER project to the Italian community in Brussels, ensuring maximum impact and engagement with key institutions. The primary objective is to expand Iuav’s and the Veneto Region’s network within the European context, strengthening their position in the research community dedicated to sustainable urban development. The event will also serve as a networking platform to build new strategic alliances in preparation for upcoming European funding opportunities.

The event is addressed to Representatives of the Italian community in Brussels, EU institution officials, members of universities and research centers, NGO representatives, public and private stakeholders interested in sustainable development policies, and participants aiming to strengthen their position in European research programs.

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Program Outline:

1. **Part One – Presentation of the PIONEER Project**
   Location: European Parliament
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   - **Introduction and Welcome:** Opening by a European Parliament representative, emphasizing the importance of European Universities Alliances in the context of education and research.
   - **EU Programming and projects:** Intervention by the representative of the Veneto Region, focusing on the relationship between EU projects, territorial development and innovation, and the contribution of research, highlighting the synergies between regional policies and European priorities.
   - **Presentation of the PIONEER Project:** Address by the Rector of Iuav, focusing on Iuav's strategic role as WP Leader for Research. The presentation will outline the project's goals, planned activities, and the importance of the Research Hub led by Iuav in advancing the European Union's strategic research and innovation objectives.
   - **Deep Dive into the Knowledge Hub:** Details on the three pillars of the Knowledge Hub (Education, Research, and Third Mission), with a focus on research activities coordinated by Iuav. Emphasis will be placed on expected outcomes and potential impacts, including knowledge production and new funding opportunities.
   - **Q&A Session:** Interaction with participants to provide clarifications and gather feedback on potential future collaborations.

2. **Part Two – Operational Workshops**
   Location: Veneto Region Office in Brussels

   Main Goals:

   - Strengthen Iuav and the Veneto Region's position within the European research community, with a competitive outlook for the future of urban sustainability.
   - Address key challenges related to sustainability (SDG 11), focusing on climate adaptation, enhancement of socio-cultural and environmental heritage, and social inclusivity.
   - Build synergies and strategic alliances in anticipation of new European funding for research and innovation in Veneto's cities.

   Thematic Roundtables: Three sequential discussion tables, coordinated by Iuav, each one dedicated to a specific area related to the sustainable development of cities (SDG 11). The debate will involve representatives from universities, public bodies, non-governmental organisations and private stakeholders. Key themes include:

   1. Climate Change and Cities
   2. Socio-cultural and Environmental Heritage in Veneto Cities
   3. Inclusive and Accessible Cities

   Each of the tables will be oriented to reflect on four transversal issues:
   a. Research and Innovation
   b. Governance and Policies
   c. Territorial Synergies and Partnerships
   d. Tools and Financing

   Each roundtable will address specific challenges, discussing practical approaches and concrete actions aimed at delivering tangible results. Iuav will lead the discussions, collecting proposals and suggestions for future PIONEER Alliance activities.

3. **Part Three – Informal Networking Session**

Networking Cocktail:
The event will conclude with an informal networking session, aimed at consolidating relationships established during the meeting and discussing potential future collaborations. This will be a valuable opportunity to strengthen Iuav's position and its research activities within the European context.

Conclusion:
The event aims to affirm Iuav's role as a leader in sustainable urban research and foster new synergies between the academic community, European institutions, and territorial stakeholders. The ultimate goal is to promote a common research strategy and open new opportunities for collaboration and funding.

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Program

Morning - European Parliament
Location: Room SPINELLI 5E2; time: 10:00 - 12.30
Language: italian

On. E. Donazzan, Vice-Chair committee on Industry, Research and Energy European Parliament:
Warm-up & welcoming

Prof. F. Musco, Director of research at Iuav:
University Alliances, priority areas for research and their relationship with cities.

Representative of the Veneto Region:
EU projects, development, and innovation at the regional level

Prof. B. Albrecht, Rector of Iuav:
Iuav strategic directions and prospects

Dott. C.F. Dall'Omo e Dott. C. Catalanott, Research Managers
Pioneer main objectives and mission statement, the knowledge hub and the role of impact-driven research

Afternoon - Veneto Region Headquarters
Location: Av. De Tervueren 67; time: 14:30-19:00
Language: English

Roundtables. 14:30-17:15

Welcome and introduction
With:
- Carlo Clini, Regione Veneto
- Prof. Francesco Musco, Università Iuav di Venezia

14:45- 15:30 Round Table 1: Climate Change and Cities

15:30 - 16:15, Round Table 2: Innovation and Infrastructure for the Enhancement of Socio-Cultural and Environmental Heritage

16:15 - 16:45, Round Table 3: Inclusive and Accessible cities

Conclusions

Networking Cocktail, 17:15-18:30