



A growing attractive collaborative ecosystem for boosting impact driven research careers

Building on the success of the [DIRS project](#), Deusto is currently running its second Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Action project, the [6i-Dirs](#). From October 2019 to February 2025, the project offers 19 Early Stage Researchers the opportunity to develop their own PhD projects, as they are hosted by high-level research teams. Our young researchers tackle some of the most pressing issues of our societies, while acquiring a combination of new skills, research-related and transferable ones, and an innovative mindset attentive to the needs of society that will enhance their future employability and strengthen the sustainability of their careers.

The Project

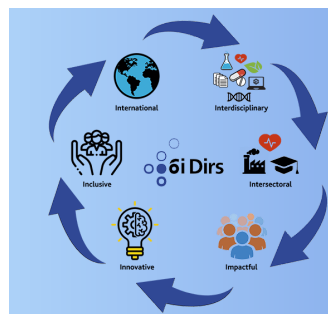
The 6i-Dirs is a 65-month strategic project for attracting outstanding Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) to the Deusto International Research School (DIRS) of the University of Deusto (UDEUSTO). The project intends to generate interdisciplinary, international and intersectoral projects and dissertations, and to provide a comprehensive training opportunity to the selected ESRs, which will support and broaden their career prospects in line with the principles set out in the [European Charter for Researchers](#), the [Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#) and the [European Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training](#).

The Challenge

The project responds to the **need to develop the profiles of researchers capable of leading high-quality research projects** not only in the academic institutions, which have been the traditional outlet for PhDs, but also in public and private institutions, in which **knowledge and innovation** are becoming key factors for success. UDEUSTO understands that the pursuit of a career as a researcher is time-and resource-consuming, and that research contracts are hardly offered to young ESRs, especially in a context of economic crisis. In this regard, with the help of 6i-DIRS, researchers will be supported through the first three years of their academic career, providing them an opportunity to establish themselves on a **more stable career path**.

The 6i-Dirs further develops the well-established **synergies with regional, national and international stakeholders** to ensure the production of world-class science, removing barriers to innovation and enabling **collaboration between academic and non-academic actors** for the delivery of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and innovation within the [European Commission's priorities for 2019-2024](#) and the [New European Innovation Agenda](#).

The 6i-Dirs model



Uriarte, O., Kalocsay, N., Husiev, O., Angarita, J (2022), 'New skills for new challenges', EU Research, Autumn 2022 vol. (32), pp. 44-46 used under [CC BY 4.0](#)

The 6i-Dirs project is built on the 6 “i” research model designed by UDEUSTO that considers research talent as a fundamental axis of scientific policy, and incorporates the combination of international, interdisciplinary, intersectoral, impactful, innovative and inclusive working methodologies and dimensions.

Attracting INTERNATIONAL talent - UDEUSTO implements policies for the attraction of highly-skilled international researchers into an expanding Research and Innovation arena.

Offering an attractive INTERDISCIPLINARY research environment - our research and training programme encompasses 7 doctoral programmes and 26 excellence research teams with 5 Interdisciplinary Research Platforms (on Ageing and Wellbeing, Cultural and Creative Cities and Communities, Gender, Social Justice and Inclusion, and Strengthening Citizen Participation) together with 4 interdisciplinary areas boosted by the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation by the Basque Government (Health, Energy, Industry 4.0 and Territory).

Enabling INTERSECTORAL collaboration with external agents - UDEUSTO has a network of more than 1500 organisations from all over the world.

Driving IMPACTFUL research - training excellent researchers to help solving global challenges in alignment with [UNSDGs](#) and European, national and regional priorities and policies.

Fostering a creative climate for INNOVATION - combining high-quality training with hands-on experience in innovative research projects for ground-breaking solutions.

Promoting INCLUSION - a diverse multicultural research ecosystem providing equal opportunities.

The Impact

The 6i-Dirs project has placed **social impact** at its heart since its conception. There has been a strong emphasis on encouraging the ESRs to reflect on the transformative nature of their research projects, to consider how they contribute to the knowledge field beyond scientific impact, and the possible uptake and exploitation of the results by relevant stakeholders. The project’s potential impact for society lies in creating an **innovative, integrated research and training ecosystem** where PhD programmes, and research areas and teams of UDEUSTO merge and interact, providing ESRs with **intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training and with transnational, cross-sectoral mobility opportunities**. The 6i-Dirs researchers represent the missing link between scientific fields as they work across fields and sectors; they will be able to integrate a **diversity of approaches, methodologies and concepts**, and navigate between academia and non-academic environment. This will not only enhance their potential and benefit their own career perspectives, but their unique knowledge and skills will benefit their future sectors, institutions and companies.

The Researchers



The 19 recruited young researchers have been selected through an open, transparent, merit-based, impartial, equitable and internationally advertised procedure, in alignment with European Commission's requirements. The group respects gender balance, a great diversity of geographical origins and a fair distribution between the different research areas.



The Media

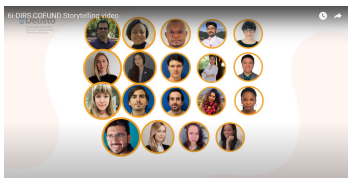
Do you want to learn more about the project? Check our latest publications and storytelling videos!



Open Access Government April 2023
<https://doi.org/10.56367/OAG-038-10677>



EU Research Autumn 2022
<https://doi.org/10.56181/EBNW8618>



6i-DIRS Storytelling video:
[long](#) and [short](#) versions

The Contact

To contact the 6i-Dirs research project, email us: cofund@deusto.es



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