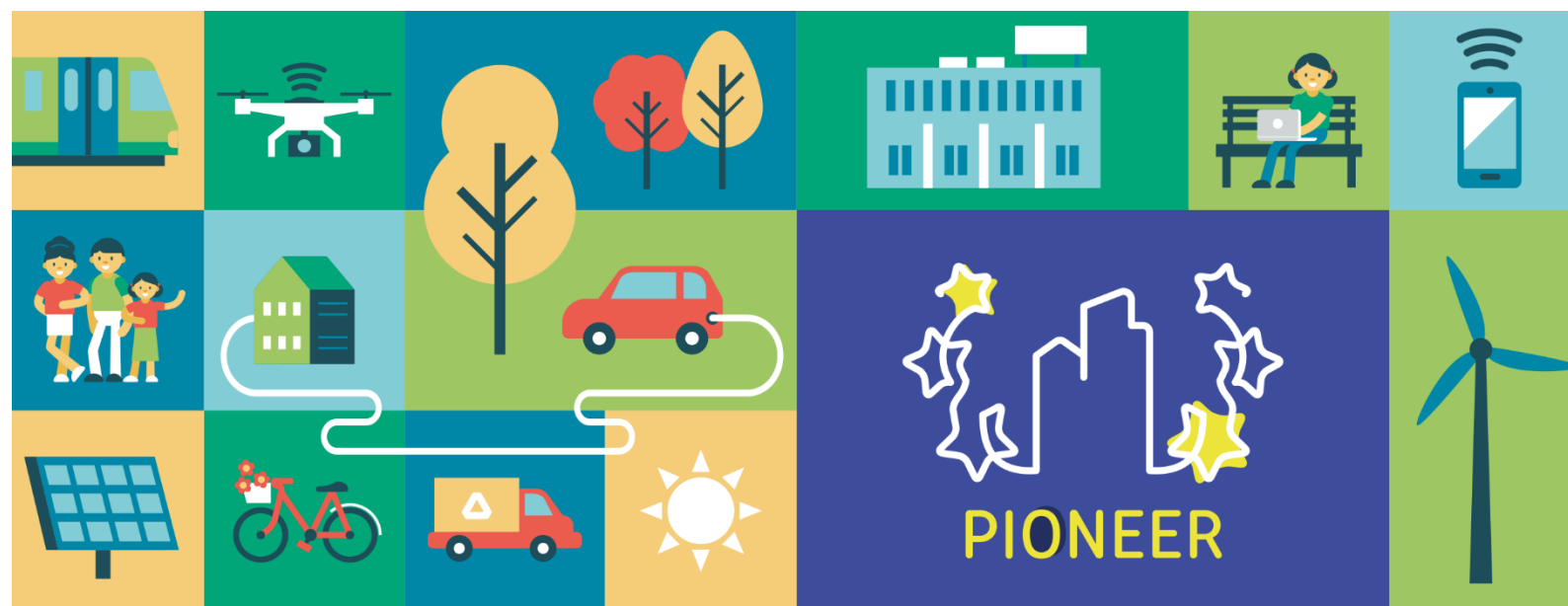


BIP PIONEER ECR TRAINING SCHOOL 2026



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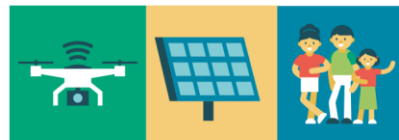
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ORGANISATION

- Avans UAS – COORDINATOR / HOST INSTITUTION
- ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa – CO-COORDINATOR
- PIONEER Alliance universities – PARTNERS

BIP ID: TBA summer 2026

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: 28/09/2026 – 2/10/2026

The on-site component will take place at Avans UAS, Onderwijsboulevard 215 in 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands

VIRTUAL ACTIVITY: before and after physical activity

This mobility will be organised as an Erasmus+ BIP and therefore, it is mandatory to participate in both virtual and on-site components.

- 14/09/2026 – 1.00 – 3.00 PM CET (Amsterdam Time)
- 21/09/2026 – 2.00 – 5.00 PM CET (Amsterdam Time)
- 09/10/2026 – 1.00 – 4.00 PM CET (Amsterdam Time)

LANGUAGE: English

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS: staff and doctoral students from PIONEER Alliance universities

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 15 April 2026

Please register for participation before April 15th via the link on the website. Each registered participant will be requested to confirm participation before May 1st, 2026.

COST: The BIP has no registration fees. All activities offered in the program are free of charge, unless otherwise specified. Accommodation and travel costs should be borne by participants and/or their universities.

INFORMATION CONTACT

- For any questions regarding Programme virtual and physical activities: Ms. Robin PEREBOOM (cr.pereboom@avans.nl), Ms. Guya ACCORNERO (guya.accornero@iscte-iol.pt)
- For any questions regarding Application process, Erasmus+ and BIP processes: Ms. Isis SUTMULLER (i.sutmuller@avans.nl) or Ms. Robin PEREBOOM



BIP PIONEER EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER TRAINING SCHOOL - Abstract

Avans University of Applied Science coordinates the Blended Intensive Program (BIP) “PIONEER Early Career Researchers Training School”.

This first edition PIONEER training school, taking place in September 2026, helps early career researchers to create meaningful impact in societal SDG11 challenges, through impact-driven transdisciplinary research.

Transdisciplinary research goes beyond collaboration across disciplines: it involves co-producing knowledge with societal actors, navigating uncertainty, and critically reflecting on who benefits from research and how. As a researcher, you have an active role in turning today’s challenges into a better tomorrow through research.

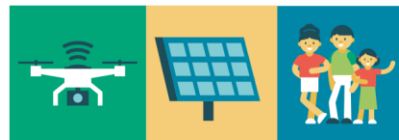
Today’s world is shaped by complex, interconnected challenges, issues no single discipline can solve alone. As an **early career researcher**¹, you are in a crucial position to rethink how knowledge is created and how research can genuinely drive societal change. Within the Pioneer alliance we combine our strengths and unique perspectives to work on societal challenges together and within (local) and global communities.

In this Pioneer Training School, you will step beyond traditional academic boundaries and work hands-on with a real-world challenge linked to **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**. An on-going urban redevelopment project in Den Bosch provides the shared empirical ground for the training school. You’ll engage directly with stakeholders, explore multiple perspectives, and practice working in real contexts where uncertainty and creativity go hand in hand.

Throughout the week, you will develop the core **transdisciplinary skills** that future-proof your research career: collaboration across sectors, perspective-taking, participatory research methods, creative inquiry, and impact-driven thinking. Drawing on established frameworks for transdisciplinary research, the school combines methodological training with critical reflection on the conditions under which research produces genuine societal impact.

We also examine the role of **AI or Digital Systems** in transdisciplinary research – not as a neutral tool, but as a set of sociotechnical system with specific political and ethical implications. Participants will explore both the potentials and limits of AI in supporting stakeholder engagement and knowledge co-production, with attention to issues of data governance, science communication and justice.

¹ The training school is open to doctoral students and early post-doctoral researchers (R1–R2 in the European framework)



Finally, this training school strengthens one of your most important assets as an early career researcher: **your international and community network**. Trust and long-lasting relationships are constitutive of collaborative research; also, they help engage stakeholders within your research project. Networking skills, internationally, interculturally and interpersonally, are an important skill to develop as an early career researcher. In this training school, we dedicate time to train these skills and build your network internationally, but also within your local communities.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

<p><i>* This programme is indicative. The program is under construction and may be subject to change.</i></p> <p><i>** PhD doctoral students will receive 3 ECTS upon completion of this training school. University staff members will receive a certificate upon completion of this training school</i></p>	
<p>Online session 1. Get ready... Monday 14 September 2026, online</p> <p>Online session 2. Set... Monday 21 September 2026, online</p>	<p>In two online sessions, supported by some reading and preparation activities (information to follow), you will be introduced to the training school and the PIONEER Alliance. A guest speaker will introduce the societal challenges related to SDG11. You will get an introduction to transdisciplinary research (TDR) and AI in societal context and research. The second session will be split up in smaller work groups.</p>
<p>Day1. GO! Perspectives on Research & Impact Monday 28 September 2026, Den Bosch</p>	<p>Morning: Registration & Welcome, Kick-off of PIONEER ECR Training School</p> <p>Networking lunch at Avans Campus</p> <p>Afternoon: Perspectives on Research and Impact Through interactive activities, participants get to know one another and explore the diverse perspectives they bring to research and how to create impact with it. This day emphasizes not only thinking <i>about</i> research but also actively <i>doing</i> it, encouraging hands-on engagement, curiosity, and experimentation from the very start.</p> <p>Evening: City Tour of Den Bosch</p>



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<p>Day2. Designing collaborative research <i>Tuesday 29 September 2026, Den Bosch</i></p>	<p>Morning: Site-visit urban redevelopment project city Den Bosch In groups you will work together on research related to a challenge which will be introduced by the municipality of Den Bosch. This will be an interactive session in which the challenge can be investigated from different perspectives and designed in co-creation.</p> <p>Afternoon: Designing collaborative TD research In the afternoon, you dive into collaborative transdisciplinary research design and methodologies. This hands-on experience helps you understand how different research forms can drive engagement, co-creation, and meaningful impact. You can use this to apply to the case you're working on as a team.</p> <p>Evening: Free evening</p>
<p>Day3. AI in transdisciplinary research <i>Wednesday 30 September 2026, Den Bosch</i></p>	<p>Morning: AI in transdisciplinary research Speakers of ISCTE will share theory and experiences of role of AI as an interface between citizens, institutions and science. Further topics such as ethics and inequality in big data will be addressed as well as role of AI within research processes, from project proposal, data collection, analyses, result delivery and scientific communications.</p> <p>Afternoon: Inspiring TDR practices Carrousel; examples of SDG11 research projects, and (invited) researcher panel discussion. Become inspired by the variety of impact-driven research project presented by Avans and ISCTE.</p> <p>Evening: Network Dinner</p>
<p>Day4. Impact and Networks <i>Thursday Oct 1st 2026, Den Bosch</i></p>	<p>Morning: Understanding Impact You explore how impact is seen, felt, and created, linking these insights to your own research and the Inner Development Goals.</p> <p>Afternoon: Building and maintaining international networks Develop your network skills! Why is it</p>



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	<p>important to build your network? What can you do now, to make sure your international network is strong? Also: good relations with your local communities.</p> <p>Evening: Closing dinner and event in Den Bosch</p>
<p>Day5. Showcasing and goodbyes Friday Oct 2nd 2026, Den Bosch</p>	<p>Morning: Student’s presentations on learning objectives and challenge On the final day, you present the insights and outcomes of your weeklong collaborative groupwork on the Den Bosch research challenge. You share experiences, reflect on your transdisciplinary research skills, and consider how to bring these lessons into your own research contexts. The program concludes with discussions on staying connected as an international community, followed by heartfelt goodbyes.</p> <p>Closing lunch & looking forward to “Accelerating the Future”</p> <p>Afternoon: departures</p>
<p>Online session 3: Accelerating the future. Friday 9 October 2026</p>	<p>The content of this session will be announced later.</p>