



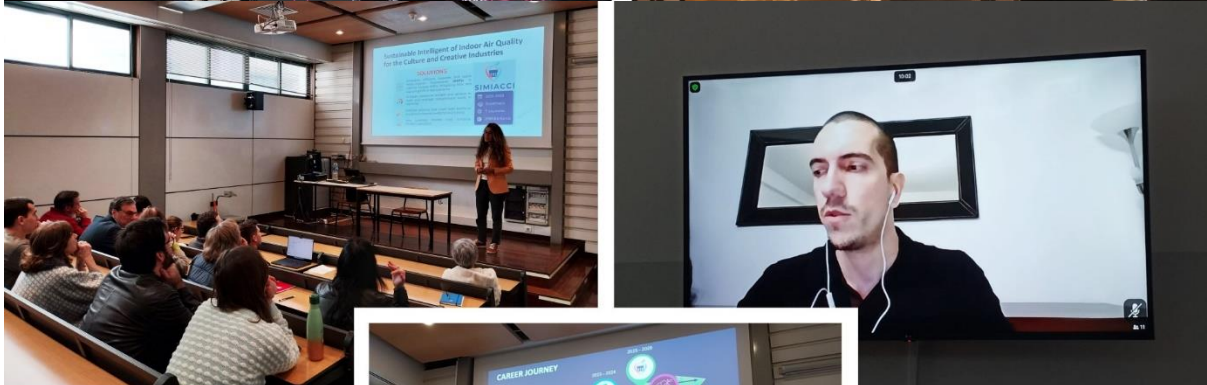
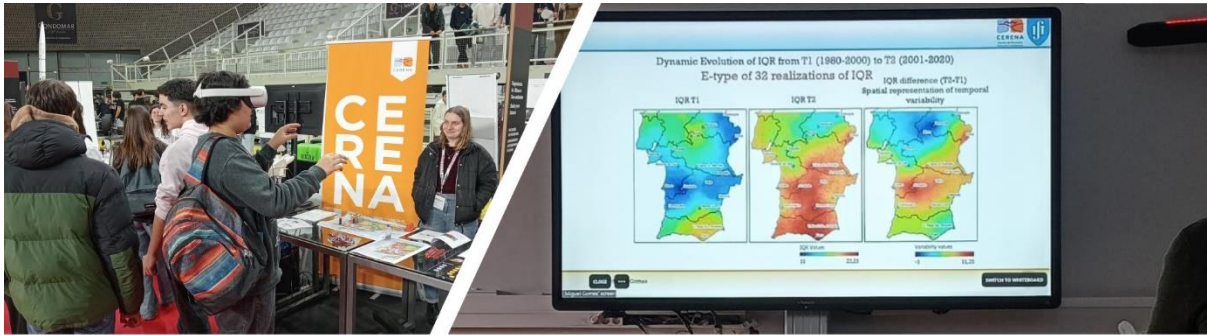
stayCERENA – April 2025

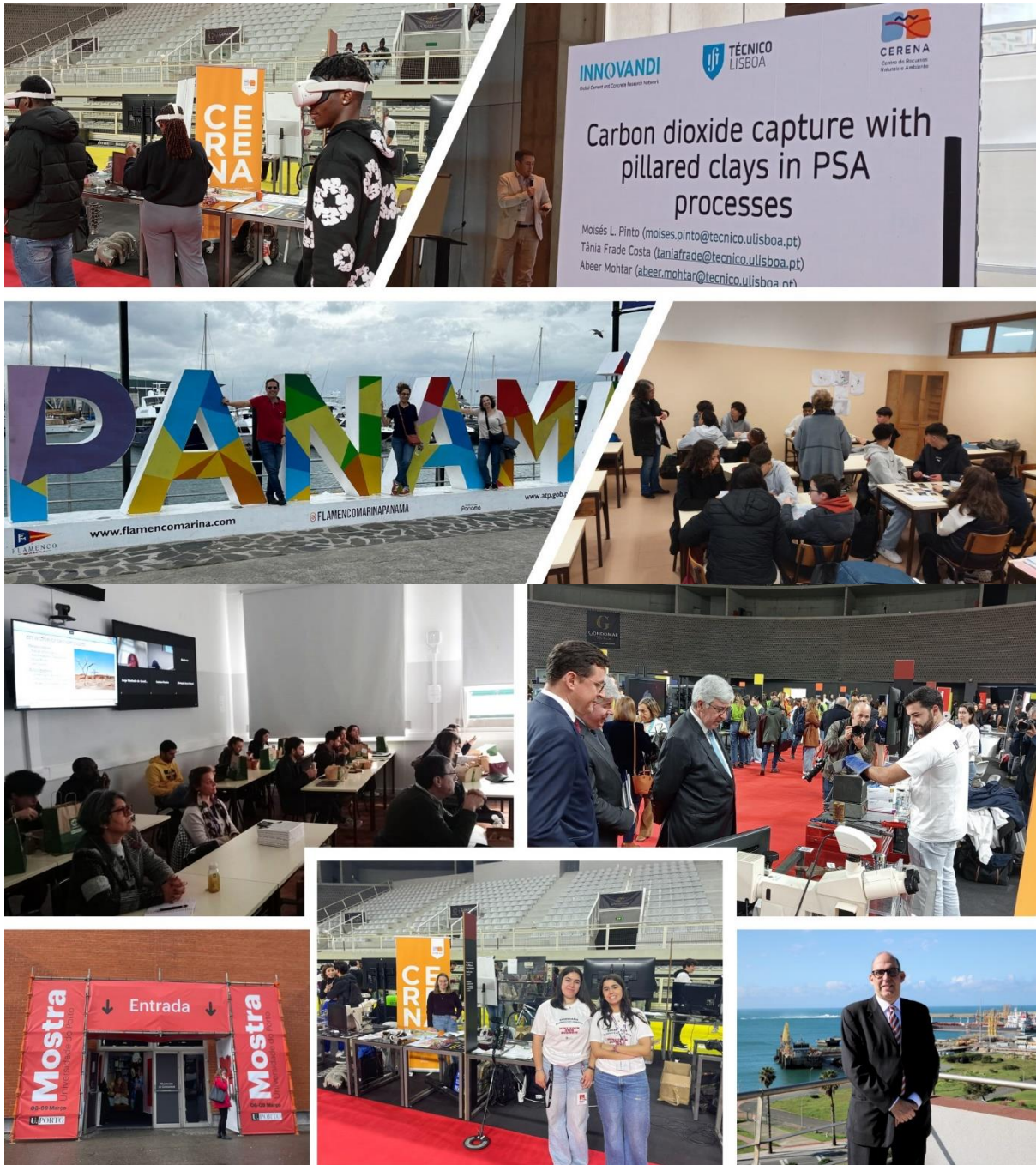
March in a nutshell



- March 6th-9th 2025 | At the [Mostra UP](#), the annual fair of the University of Porto for secondary school students, CERENA-FEUP participated with a stand showcasing “The mineral chain in robot manufacturing”
- March 17th-21st 2025 | [Tânia Frade](#), [Moisés Pinto](#) e [Abeer Mohtar](#) participated at the Innovandi GCCRN Spring Week in Panama, to meet with the Innovandi network
- March 26th 2025 | Abeer Mohtar gave a seminar for the DEQTalk series about “**Multiscale Modeling and Absorption: Bridging Fundamental Understanding to Applications**”
- March 27th 2025 | The usual CERENA Seminar took place. This month [Miguel Gomes](#) presented “**Exploring the Patterns of Drought Events in Southern Portugal**”
- [Jaime Puna](#) Joins the Port of Sines' New Executive Board. [Read more.](#)
- [Rafael Amoedo](#) and the Emissium team win START Global Pitching Competition. [Read more.](#)

- March 27th-28th 2025 | The seminar from Paterson&Cooke about “Mining Waste Management” was attended by many students, professors and researchers from CERENA-IST and DER.





Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Plans



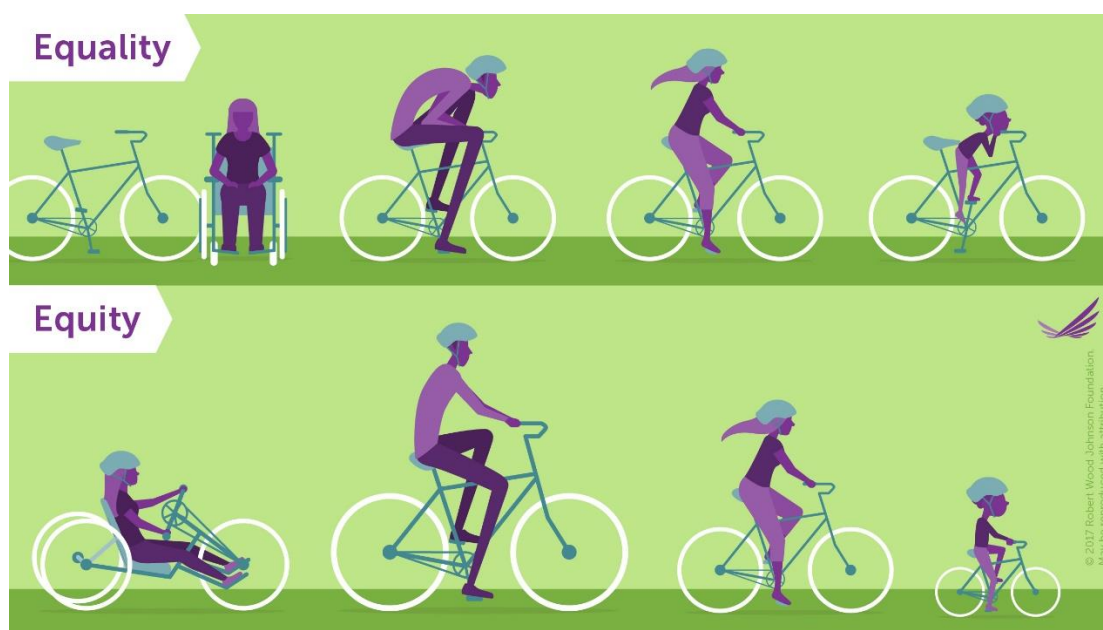
The past few weeks have been marked by significant dates to reflect on the progress made and the challenges that remain in achieving **equity** across all areas of life. These include February 11th, March 8th, and March 31st. The [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#) highlights the importance of gender equality in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). [March 8th](#) serves as a global celebration of the Rights, Equality, and Empowerment of all women and girls. Finally, [March 31st](#) raises awareness of gender identity diversity and the discrimination faced by transgender individuals.

The principle of equality, which ensures that no citizen can be treated differently, was adopted by the Portuguese Constitution in 1976. CERENA's host institutions recognize that Diversity is a powerful source of innovation, and the success of science and technology can't be achieved without it. Achieving excellence requires inclusive policies that **eliminate bias** in selection processes and celebrate diversity in daily actions. To support this, IST, ISEL, and FEUP provide comprehensive guidelines on promoting gender equity and inclusion, including in everyday interactions like the way we speak to each other and even send an email. To honor these principles, it's important to be aware of the updated diversity and equality plans of our institutions:

[Diversity and Gender Balance – Técnico Lisboa](#)

[Plano para a Igualdade de Género | ISEL \(Portuguese only\)](#)

[Equality, Inclusion and Diversity - University of Porto](#)



Our people



Sofia Moreira Fernandes – PhD in Chemical Engineering

Between experiments, [Sofia](#) is happy to share her perspective on her academic journey at CERENA and IST. She first arrived in Técnico during her Erasmus, and after graduating in Chemical Engineering from the University of Brno, she sought out opportunities to return. This motivated her to pursue a PhD, co-supervised by [Ana Clara Marques](#) from CERENA, [Luis Felipe Santos](#) from CQE, and [Markus Niederberger](#) from ETH. Now in her fourth and final year, Sofia is wrapping up her thesis while exploring opportunities to cultivate her diverse interests and continue growing professionally.



What work are you doing at the moment?

S: “Right now I am often in the lab, running experiments to determine the error bars of the results for my 3rd paper on photocatalyst materials. These materials transform light into chemical energy, and I modified them to broaden their functional spectrum under infrared and visible light as well.”

What results do you expect from your work?

S: “Combining the two major parts of my project: part one was improving the functionality of the particles for *harnessing* light, and the second part is to immobilize these particles onto MICROSCAFs and test how they work together. The final aim is to have a prototype of the

MICROSCAF support and the improved photocatalyst materials for the degradation of antibiotics.”

What would you like to do when you finish your PhD?

S: “I don’t know if a job that combines all my interests exists yet, but I would like to work with young adults, in whatever form, and use my strengths in a role where I can have an impact on their development. The most rewarding experience of my PhD has been working with MSc or Erasmus students. I’m also very passionate about international collaboration and science communication.”

Dates to diary



- April 5th 2025 | [Dia Aberto](#) (Open Day) at Instituto Superior Técnico
- April 4th-5th 2025 | [Fórum Nacional Ciência Viva](#) nas Escolas, Porto. CERENA-FEUP will participate with a stand showcasing “The mineral chain in robot manufacturing”
- April 24th 2025 | CERENA Seminar by Teresa Nogueira on “[Total Plastic Recycling – Contributions to Circular Economy](#)”
- May 8th-10th 2025 | [CERENA Annual Meeting '25](#)

Health and Wellbeing



To ensure [proper ergonomics](#) while using a computer, the monitor should be at eye level, with a tilt angle between 10° and 20°, and placed at a comfortable distance. It should be positioned to avoid glare and reflections, and anti-glare filters can be used if needed. An **ergonomic keyboard and mouse** should be used with wrist support, and for laptops, an external keyboard and mouse are recommended.

New instrument

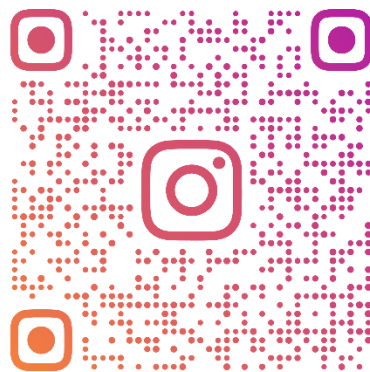
We are happy to officially announce that the Gas Adsorption Analyzer (Anton Paar Autosorb 6100) has been successfully installed at the Chemical Engineering Department (IST). This new equipment is capable of high-resolution physisorption measurements. Physisorption is a powerful technique for **characterizing nanoporous materials**, allowing the determination of adsorption isotherm, surface area, pore volume, pore size distribution. This analyzer is especially recommended for the study of materials with micropores and mesopores (pore size < 50 nm). The equipment installed at CERENA can perform analysis with N₂ or CO₂ gases.

For those interested in using the equipment please contact directly Sílvia Carvalho (silvia.carvalho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt).



Instagram

CERENA has now an Instagram page! Please, follow us and spread the voice amongst your network, friends and families. This will help us greatly especially in these first weeks on this platform 😊



CERENA.PT

Publications



Marques, L., Vieira, M., Condeço, J., Sousa, H., Henriques, C., & Mateus, M. (2024). [Review of Power-to-Liquid \(PtL\) Technology for Renewable Methanol \(e-MeOH\): Recent Developments, Emerging Trends and Prospects for the Cement Plant Industry](#). *Energies*, 17(22), 1-44.

Silva, D. B., & Marques, A. C. (2025). [TiO₂-based photocatalytic degradation of microplastics in water: Current status, challenges and future perspectives](#). *Journal of Water Process Engineering*, 72, 107465.

Pre-Award Section

Get Ready: Horizon Europe 2025 Info Days Are Coming!

The European Commission is launching a new round of [Horizon Europe Info Days](#), dedicated to the 2025 Work Programme, which will be released soon. These sessions are a prime opportunity to deepen your understanding of Horizon Europe's structure, strategic goals, and upcoming calls under Pillar II – *Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness*.


Whether you're shaping a new proposal or looking to join a consortium, these events will offer key insights into funding opportunities, the proposal evaluation process, and direct interaction with Commission representatives. Each thematic cluster will have its own dedicated session—don't miss your chance to connect, learn, and position your ideas ahead of the next calls.

📅 Check the full agenda and secure your spot:

Cluster 1: Health



📅 **Date:** 22 May
📍 **Format:** Online
🔗 **Event Link**

 **Date:** 5-6 May – *Brokerage Event*

An online Brokerage event organized before the Cluster 1 Health Info Day will give potential applicants more time to find potential partners and prepare their application. After registering, participants can pre-schedule bilateral meetings with potential partners via a matchmaking platform.

You can find more details and register [here](#) (up to April 30th)

Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society



 **Date:** 15 May

 **Format:** Online


 [Event Link](#)


 **Date:** 16 May – *Brokerage Event*

An online brokerage event will take place the following day, dedicated to consortium building. After registering, participants can pre-schedule bilateral meetings with potential partners via a matchmaking platform. You can find more details and register [here](#).

Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society



 **Date:** 11-12 June

 **Format:** Hybrid (Brussels and Online)

A Brokerage Event is also expected to follow the Info Day. The event link and further details are not yet available but will be published [here](#) once released.

Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space



Date: 13–14 May



Format: Online (registration on the official platform required)



[Event Link](#)

Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility



Date: 6 May



Format: Hybrid (Brussels and Online)



Note: Onsite participation has limited slots. **Registration closes on 31 March** or earlier if capacity is reached.



[Event Link](#)

Brokerage Event (on-site only):

Takes place right after the Info Day, at the same venue. It includes:

- A **pitching session** from 16:00 to 17:00 CET, where interested participants can present their project ideas.
- **Bilateral meetings** until 19:00 CET to foster strategic partnerships.




Register by: 11 April [here](#)



Pitch presentations due by: 14 April

Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment





 **Date:** 20–21 May

 **Format:** Online


 [Event Link](#)

Additional in-person events in Warsaw:

-  **27 May – Brokerage Event: [Registration](#)**
Opportunity for networking and matchmaking among potential applicants.
-  **28 May – Training for Applicants: [Registration](#) (Limited number of participants)**
Practical training on proposal preparation and submission.

EU Missions



 **Dates:** 22–23 May

 **Format:** Online

 [Event Link](#)

Contact us

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Useful links:

 Pre-Award [SharePoint](#): here you can learn more about funding, get involved in networking events, and connect to other relevant stakeholders.

 CERENA [Restricted Area](#): here you can find forms, regulations, institutional graphical material and tips.

 Visit us at <https://cerena.pt/>

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