



Università Iuav di Venezia

Santa Croce 191 / Tolentini
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Brussels, December 10th 2024

A New Research Platform for European Cities. The Pioneer Alliance on SDG11

The Università Iuav di Venezia, in collaboration with the Veneto Region, is organizing an event to present the PIONEER Alliance's Research Platform to the Italian community in Brussels.

Università Iuav di Venezia, 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, Università Iuav di Venezia holds a strategic role as the Work Package Leader for the Research pillar. This position allows Università Iuav di Venezia to lead the development of a shared competitive research strategy and coordinate actions among the partner universities. Università Iuav di Venezia 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 Università Iuav di Venezia as a key player in the European research landscape, particularly regarding challenges linked to sustainable urban development.

The event "PIONEER Alliance: Università Iuav di Venezia 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 Università Iuav di Venezia'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.

Program Outline:

1. Part One – Presentation of the PIONEER Research Platform

Location: European Parliament

- **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 Università Iuav di Venezia, focusing on Università Iuav di Venezia'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 Università Iuav di Venezia 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 Università Iuav di Venezia. 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 Università Iuav di Venezia 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 Università Iuav di Venezia, 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. Università Iuav di Venezia will lead the discussions, collecting proposals and suggestions for future PIONEER Alliance activities.

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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 Università Iuav di Venezia's position and its research activities within the European context.

Conclusion:

The event aims to affirm Università Iuav di Venezia'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.

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 Università Iuav di Venezia:

University Alliances, priority areas for research and their relationship with cities.

Representative of Veneto Region:

EU projects, development, and innovation at the regional level

Prof. B. Albrecht, Rector, Università Iuav di Venezia:

Università Iuav di Venezia strategic directions and prospects

Dott. C.F. Dall'Omo e Dott. C. Catalanotti, 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 del 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