

# Research Summit 2018



“Social Responsibility of Higher Education Institutions & Research” was the theme of the first edition of the Research Summit at the University of Aveiro, held in November 28-29, 2018.

In a world where sustainability is a keyword in many scenarios, it is critical for higher education institutions to maintain a diligent, yet socially responsible, focus on research, innovation and collaboration in order to identify areas of opportunity and to adopt strategies that produce the desired outcomes. The objectives of Research Summit 2018 included the strengthening of the network among the faculty members, researchers and students at the campus, developing sustainable research partnerships, for a more sustainable use of infrastructures, sharing of know-how and contacts, the showcasing of the SR&TD integrated programmes approved by Centro Region, and offering early career researchers the opportunity to pitch their work, so as to improve communication and networking skills.

The programme included 3 keynote talks by highly-reputed speakers. With his presentation entitled “University Social Responsibility – the case of the Spanish Universities”, Dr. Óscar González, University of Burgos, Spain, addressed how the Spanish University System implemented University Social Responsibility. The audience learnt how worldwide higher education institutions began to embrace sustainability and involve their campuses and communities in such efforts, leading to the development of integrity and ethical values in HE institutions. The Director of Education at the Aga Khan Foundation in Portugal, Alexandra Marques presented the work entitled “Rethinking the community with a pluralistic outlook: bridging practice and knowledge in an

uncertain world” and gave insights of the work developed by AKF, which continuously pursues to bridge practice and knowledge through participation and co-construction processes, giving voice to the most vulnerable communities and individuals. The last keynote, by Dr. Anne C. Deveson, Deputy Editor of the Chemistry-A European Journal and Editor-in-Chief, Chemistry Select, provided the audience with the opportunity to learn about “Publishing, Ethics, and Open Research: An Editor’s Perspective”.

The Research Summit also hosted scientific round table sessions, where, in an informal setting, coordinators presented the audience with a brief introduction of the issues addressed in their Research Units. The Vice-Rector for Research, Innovation and 3rd Cycle, Professor Artur Silva, moderated, afterwards, a debate on the perspective of these coordinators on the research, impact and social responsibility of higher education institutions.

Day II provided the opportunity for the audience to learn about the 6 strategic projects supported by CENTRO Region, which are potentiating UA’s research capacity in pivotal research areas, such as Energy (SusPhotoSolutions – Sustainable Photovoltaic Solutions), Agro-food (Agro-ForWealth – Biorefining of agriculture and forest byproducts), Sea (Smart-BioR – Smart Valorization of Biological and Marine Resources), Health (pAGE – Life-Long Protein Aggregation), IT (SOCA – Smart Open Campus) and Territorial Innovation (cENTER – Community-led Networks for Territorial Innovation). Within this scope, Research Summit also had the privilege to welcome presentations by NOKIA, Instituto Politécnico de Leiria and Instituto Superior Técnico Lisboa University).

Also of relevance in this second day of Research Summit were the 52 PhD students who participated in the PhD pitch contests. The challenge posed to PhD students was to perform a compelling presentation on their thesis. 8 PhD students, one per panel, received a certificate of Best Pitch and a monetary prize to spend on their PhD work.

The winners of PhD Pitch contest in Research Summit 2018 were:

- Margarida Martins/ CICECO – SEA: Sustainability Extracted from Algae;
- Daniela Fonseca/ CICECO – Microneedles: holding the key to pain-free injections;
- Valentina Piacentini/ CIDTFF – Educational approach for learning Science together with English at Portuguese middle school;
- João Dias/ TEMA – Adsorption heat pumps for central and domestic water heating;
- Daniel Pereira/ IT – Quantum RNG based on vacuum noise;
- Marisa Pereira/ Ibimed – Development of a Protein Aggregation Sensor;
- Filipe Moreira/ Digimedia – Internet of Things in Educational contexts: technologies, potentialities, challenges and paradigm shifts;
- Luísa Magalhães/ Cesam – Do trematode parasites matter?

The Research Summit was attended by graduation and post-graduation students, researchers and professors from the University of Aveiro, which enriched the event with their presence and active contribution.