

Research Summit 2023



Under the theme “Inclusive, innovative and sustainable societies”, the 2023 edition of the Research Summit has once again brought together faculty, researchers and students at the Universidade de Aveiro, strengthening networking among all, fostering sustainable research partnerships, and providing a forum for sharing of know-how and expertise.

The research community was challenged to critically reflect on the university's contribution to inclusiveness, innovation, and the way forward towards more sustainable societies, through research as well as through action, setting our university as an example.

On the 1st day of the event, 12th July, Maria Lúcia Leitão, from the Banking Conduct Supervision Department at Banco de Portugal, delivered a very interesting presentation entitled “Inclusive, innovative and sustainable societies – the contribution of financial consumer protection and financial literacy”. The presentation focused on how financial consumer protection took the stage with a global financial crisis and the subsequent development of new policies aiming at protecting consumers of financial services, increasing consumer trust and confidence in the financial system and contributing to fairer, more sustainable and inclusive growth and financial system stability. In the midst of an ever-increasing digital world, ideas on digital financial literacy and its role on consumer decision, choices and behavior, ultimately promoting financial resilience, were discussed.

The 20 research units of the Universidade de Aveiro had the opportunity to showcase the most recent research carried out under the theme of the Research Summit 2023, ranging from extended reality, responsible electronics, sustainability challenges or healthy aging to food additives and insects and sustainability.

The event also counted on the participation of Laura Roman, Policy Officer at the Industry 5.0 Unit, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission. The presentation “Invited systemic change in the research and industry environments from the lens of adoption of AI and new technologies and the industry 5.0 human-centric, resilient and sustainable approach” focused on how Artificial Intelligence is paving its way in research, as well as the role of Industry 5.0 in leading industry to achieve societal goals beyond jobs and growth, to become a resilient provider of prosperity, by making production respect the boundaries of our planet and placing the wellbeing of the industry worker at the center of the production process, while providing an overview of the European Commission policies and engagement opportunities in these topics.

Following the plenary session, days 2 and 3 were highly attended. The PhD pitch sessions aim at providing PhD students the opportunity to pitch their work, encouraging them to improve communication and networking skills. Apart from the hundreds of PhD pitches, through 12 parallel sessions, around 20 students pitched the activities developed under the scope of PIIC@UA (Scientific Research Incentive Program) to promote their enrolment in science during the 1st and 2nd cycle of training.

The expected outcomes of this Research Summit shall be reflected on the institutional engagement towards an Inclusive, innovative and sustainable society, shedding light on the significant contribution of our university's community to current and future challenges and existing divides. The projects and outputs discussed under the Research Summit 2023 are the display of how a customized and adaptable pooling of the best people and resources, provided by the university's underlying matrix structure, contribute to tackle ever-evolving research challenges.