

Newsletter

Welcome to the 4th edition of our BRIDGITISE newsletter!

This edition presents the main activities carried out during the second half of 2025 and in January 2026, a particularly active and formative period for the BRIDGITISE project. As the project progresses toward its later stages, increasing emphasis has been placed on consolidating research outcomes, strengthening collaboration within the consortium, and fostering meaningful interaction with end-users to ensure practical relevance and the real-world impact.

During this reporting period, BRIDGITISE delivered a series of targeted training and networking activities to support the professional development of the Doctoral Candidates (DCs) while advancing dialogue between academia and industry.

The 4th edition of BRIDGITISE newsletter encompasses the following highlights:

- The network training webinar on sustainability metrics,
- A scientific writing and communication skills webinar
- The 1st Research workshop
- The 1st End-Users Workshop of the project.

Webinar on Sustainability Metrics and Environmental Footprint

In October 2025, BRIDGITISE organised an online Network Training Webinar on Sustainability Metrics and Environmental Footprint, focusing on how sustainability considerations can be translated into measurable indicators to support decision-making in bridge management.

The webinar addressed key aspects such as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costs (LCC), and circularity, highlighting their role in evaluating environmental impacts and long-term performance across the bridge life cycle.

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Contributions were provided by Dr. Irina Stipanović, Dr. Andreas Hartmann, Elie Issa (Doctoral Candidate), and MSc C.E. Sandra Škarić Palić, who presented both methodological frameworks and applied case studies.

Through technical presentations and an interactive exercise, participants engaged in discussions on sustainability metrics, circularity KPIs, and practical approaches to integrate environmental and economic considerations into bridge integrity management strategies.

Presenting our webinar speakers



A vertical list of four circular profile pictures of speakers, each followed by their name, title, and a short biography. The background features a stylized bridge structure and a network diagram.

DR. IRINA STIPANOVIĆ
SUSTAINABILITY & LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE AND MANAGING DIRECTOR AT INFRAPLAN CONSULTING. SPECIALIZING IN RISK-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT. HER WORK FOCUSES ON TOOLS AND STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE.

DR. ANDREAS HARTMANN
LIFE CYCLE COSTS & MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE, SPECIALIZING IN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT AND LIFECYCLE OPTIMIZATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE. HE ALSO LEADS THE PRIME PROGRAM, DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE METHODS AND MODELS FOR BETTER DECISION-MAKING.

ELIE ISSA (PHD CANDIDATE)
CIRCULARITY KPIS & CASE EXAMPLES
CIVIL ENGINEER AND PH.D. RESEARCHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE, EXPLORES SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR BRIDGE DURABILITY. HE COMBINES ACADEMIC RESEARCH WITH PRACTICAL PROJECTS TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT.

MSC C.E. SANDRA ŠKARIĆ PALIĆ
CASE STUDY ON CIRCULARITY ANALYTICS FOR A CROATIAN MOTORWAY BRIDGE
SANDRA HAS OVER 15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. SHE WORKS AS A RESEARCHER AND CONSULTANT AT INFRAPLAN CONSULTING (CROATIA), FOCUSING ON MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, SUSTAINABILITY, AND CIRCULARITY IN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE.

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Scientific Writing and Communication Skills Webinar

As part of the BRIDGITISE training programme, the webinar dedicated to scientific writing and communication skills was held on 5th November 2025. The session, titled “How to Write a Successful Paper – Part 2”, was delivered by George Karagiannakis, Postdoctoral Researcher and Project Manager of BRIDGITISE.

The webinar supported Doctoral Candidates in developing effective scientific publications by addressing journal selection criteria, the responsible use of AI tools in academic writing, and best practices for structuring a research paper. Using practical examples, the session reviewed all key sections of a scientific manuscript, from the title and abstract to conclusions, references, and the preparation of figures and tables.

The training concluded with an open discussion, enabling DCs to raise questions and share experiences related to scientific publishing and dissemination.

Two Slides from the Webinar about the criteria for selecting the right journal:

Choosing the right journal for your research – Criteria		
Criterion	Description	Hint
1. Fit: Scope and audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the journal's Aims and Scope to ensure the topic aligns. If not, a rejection is very likely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check recent articles in the journal
2. Article type and journal policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the targeted article type (original research, review, communication) by the journal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of word limits, figures/tables limits, supplements allowance, pre-print and open-access options will increase impact and save you time
3. Reputation, indexing and visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check if the journal is indexed in major Databases (e.g., WoS, Scopus) for discoverability Check Impact factor, SJR, ranking (Quartile: Q1) Check Editorial Board and credibility of peer review, which ensure quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact factor should not be the only metric to check

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Choosing the right journal for your research – **Criteria**

Criterion	Description	Hint
4. Practical issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check review/acceptance rate and be realistic (Nature, Science): <10%; strong field-specific journals: 15–30%; newer or specialized journals: 30–60% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An acceptance rate does not reflect quality always but also selectivity: different scope, major conceptual advance, broad cross-disciplinary significance and broad audience
5. Practical issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check review/acceptance time Publishing in journals with low acceptance rate gives prestige, but it can require long review times and high likelihood of rejection, which is discouraging for Early Careers Researchers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you need publishing fast for a job opportunity, a faster journal may be better
6. Practical issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost BRIDGITISE: All publications and outcomes must be open-access, CC BY, (GA, Article 17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article Processing Charges (APCs) charges are covered in MSCA DN projects for open access
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check all the criteria and several metrics (qualitative and quantitative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal selection should be multi-dimensional. Find the journal before carrying out your research!!!

Research Workshop: A training activity for fostering collaboration among the DCs (Date: 21st January 2026)

The BRIDGITISE research workshop was a one-day interactive event bringing together doctoral candidates, academic experts, and industry partners of BRIDGITISE to strengthen collaboration in digitalised bridge infrastructure monitoring. The DCs were categorized into three groups, namely “Digital Twins”, “AI-enhanced monitoring” and “Risk management and Cyber security”.

The workshop featured:

- Keynote presentations by internal industrial partners and discussions highlighting real-world challenges and priorities in bridge monitoring and management
- Short research and collaboration pitches by doctoral candidates
- Interactive sessions, including a Thematic World Café and group roundtables, to foster cross-theme collaboration

The main objectives were to:

- Align doctoral research with practical needs and expectations from industry and end users
- Encourage collaboration across research themes such as digital twins, AI-enhanced monitoring, and risk-informed, cybersecure decision support
- Co-develop shared research pathways and concrete next steps for integrated research within the BRIDGITISE project

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Key outcome:

- Jointly developed “Collaboration Notes” outlining a common research pathway that will be evolving during the next planned research workshops.

Snapshots during the Research Workshop



The coordinator, Prof. Limongelli, outlines the objectives and structure of the research workshop



Aleš Žnidarič, Stanislav Lenart and Andrej Anzlin introduce ZAG institute to the consortium

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Israel Alejandro Hernández González from CEMOSA gives a presentation on Digital Twins



Doctoral Candidates from Group 2 build collaboration based on their research topics



A picture of beautiful Ljubljana from the city tour

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1st End-Users Workshop: Increasing the impact of the project (Date: 22st January 2026)

The first BRIDGITISE End-Users interactive event between the Doctoral Candidates and external participant, such infrastructure owners and operators, engineers, researchers, technology providers, and policy-makers to discuss the digital transformation of bridge integrity management. The workshop created a modern dedicated space by allowing one-to-one sessions for interaction.

The workshop featured:

- The pitches by doctoral candidates showcasing their research and trying to attract the attention of the end-users
- Interactive “speed date” sessions fostering direct exchange between end-users and candidates based on the previous pitches
- Breakout and group discussions focused on practical challenges, user needs, and implementation barriers

The main objectives were to:

- Gather end-user feedback on current research directions
- Prepare the Doctoral Candidates to pitch and have a clear vision for their research
- Identify real-world needs, expectations, and constraints in bridge monitoring, maintenance, and management
- Strengthen collaboration between researchers and stakeholders to support user-driven, impactful research

Key outcome:

- Consolidated insights from end-users to inform and refine doctoral research activities
- Better vision for the Doctoral Candidates’ research

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Some snapshots from the end-users workshop:



A modern way for promoting research: one-to-one discussion between the end-users and Doctoral Candidates



The head of the external advisory board, Jesus Rodriguez, presents the objectives of the end-users workshop



All the participants of the end-users workshop, including external end-users from Slovenia, Croatia and Italy

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The enthusiasm of the pitching by the audience



The member of the External Advisory Board, Marianna Loli, presents the **implications** of the research workshop



The DC representative, Elie Issa, pitches during the end-users workshop

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The Doctoral Candidate, Sergio Castro, pitches during the workshop

Upcoming events and initiatives

The BRIDGITISE project continues with a rich programme of in-person activities across Europe, combining research workshops, training schools, and end-user engagement to strengthen collaboration between academia, industry, and stakeholders.

◆ Research Workshop

📍 Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

📅 Dates: 4–5 June 2026

🏠 Host: Ramboll

Hosted by Ramboll, this research workshop will provide DCs with the opportunity to present their work, discuss results, and receive expert input from supervisors and industry representatives, fostering knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration.

◆ 2nd Training School

📍 Location: Lund, Sweden

📅 Dates: 8–12 June 2026

🏠 Host: Lund University

The second training school will offer advanced technical training for DCs, delivered by academic experts and invited trainers. The programme will focus on strengthening research, innovation, and professional development.



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- ◆ Research Workshop & 2nd End-Users Event
 - 📍 Location: Germany
 - 📅 Dates: October 2026
 - 🏠 Host: BAST

These events will further consolidate engagement with end-users, allowing DCs to validate their research outcomes against industry needs. Interactive sessions will encourage discussion on implementation, impact, and future collaboration opportunities.

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