

## **Executive Summary of ICNOVA Activities in 2021**

On 1 January 2021, NOVA Institute of Communication (ICNOVA) started the second year of its contract programme with the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). The Centre began its activities during the 2020–2023 pluri-annual funding programme and currently has the maximum classification grade of excellent awarded by the FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology Portugal).

The COVID-19 pandemic also marked the second year of activities and had consequences for the production rhythms of research-and-development units to which ICNOVA was no exception.

This executive summary presents the main performance indicators of ICNOVA's various working groups in 2021.

### **Structure, Members and Liaisons**

- Five research groups: *Media and Journalism*; *Culture, Mediation and Arts*; *Strategic Communication and Decision-Making Process*; *Performance and Cognition*; and *iNOVA Media Lab*, along with two laboratories associated with the Performance and Cognition group (BlackBox and Scenic Experimentation Laboratory) and five observatories.
- 100 integrated members and 98 doctoral students
- Close connections with PhD courses in communication science and digital media at NOVA FCSH

### **Actions (Mission and Vision)**

As a research unit under the Science Law, Decree-Law No. 63/2019, ICNOVA's main objective in 2021 was to accumulate sufficient critical mass to perform its scientific mission of creating and adding value to society.

In line with the strategic plan for the 2020–2023 pluri-annual period entitled 'Media Practices: Cultural, Societal and Technological Challenges', the main topics developed in 2021 were:

- Communication, journalism and media and their relationship with society – from the history to the processes in which information is produced, and from people's practices with the media, to innovations, skills and literacies;
- Communication and its relationship with culture and the arts, with a focus on expressive creation and the associated knowledge processes;
- Technological innovation and digital materiality.

## Academic, Scientific and Artistic Production

In 2021, ICNOVA's productive activity resulted in the following:

Involvement/leadership in competitively financed projects	Four national projects with competitive funding: <i>Towards a History of Journalism in Portugal</i> ; <i>The Photographic Impulse: Measuring Colonies and Colonised Bodies</i> ; <i>Political Interest Networks in Facebook Portugal</i> ; <i>Gender in hate pandemics: social media, Covid-19 and female journalists</i> . Three international projects: <i>ySKILLS</i> (H2020/EU); <i>WEAVE - Windes European Access to Cultural Communities via Europeana</i> (European Commission); <i>Project Red</i> (national funding PT2020 and EU).
Articles in academic and scientific journals	- 37 articles published in international journals, including 10 in Q1 journals and 9 in Q2 journals (Scimago/Scopus ranking) in at least one academic/scientific area. - About 16% published in journals that have the greatest impact in communication science and rank in quartile 1, including many in the 95th and 90th percentiles (top 5 and top 10, respectively).
Book chapters	- 22 book chapters with international publishers such as Springer and Routledge. - 89 chapters published in books edited by national publishers.
Book coordination	- 17 books coordinated by ICNOVA researchers.
Other publications and scientific participation	- 13 articles in (international and national) conference proceedings; - 19 working reports; - Participation in 231 conferences (174 international and 57 national).
Artistic production	ICNOVA's agenda produced 96 works of an artistic and cultural nature (such as texts, videos, etc.).

## Editorial Activity of ICNOVA Researchers

In 2021, ICNOVA researchers contributed to the organisation and coordination of special issues of academic journals, as well as involvement in the editorial boards of external national and international journals.

<b>ICNOVA academic journals</b>	Semi-annual journals directed by ICNOVA researchers, with the mission to publish articles of importance in two areas within communication science: <i>Media &amp; Jornalismo</i> ; <i>Revista de Comunicação e Linguagens</i> .
<i>Media &amp; Jornalismo</i> ( <i>Media and Journalism</i> )	Journals' third year of inclusion into the Scopus collection; organisation and publication of two issues: 'Hybridity in the media: new journalistic genres and formats', vol. 21(38); 'Journalism in contemporary history', vol. 21(39).
<i>Revista de Comunicação e Linguagens</i> ( <i>Journal of Communication and Languages</i> )	Continued inclusion in the European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH-PLUS); initiation of the indexing process with Scopus; publication of two issues: 'Gendering decolonizations: ways of seeing and knowing', vol. 54; 'Habitual news media', vol. 55.
Coordination of special issues in Scopus-indexed academic journals external to ICNOVA	Organization and coordination of 15 special issues in national and international journals.
Other editorial coordination	Participation in the editorial teams of academic journals indexed in Scopus and/or WoS, including top 10 and top 5 Q1 journals (e.g. <i>International Journal of Communication</i> ; <i>Communications</i> ; <i>Social Science Computer Review</i> ; <i>Policy &amp; Internet</i> ; <i>Journal of Child-Computer Interaction</i> ; <i>New Media and Society</i> ) as well as 118 peer reviews.

## Academic Supervision

In 2021, the ICNOVA team of researchers supervised or co-supervised more than 290 theses and works by students in second- and third-cycle courses, helping strengthen the Portuguese university system.

PHDs	17 PhD theses completed and mentored by ICNOVA researchers; 90 theses underway with ICNOVA researchers as supervisors;
Masters	72 dissertations or master's projects defended and tutored by ICNOVA researchers; Approximately 120 dissertations in progress supervised or co-supervised by ICNOVA researchers.

### **Participation in Scientific Organisations and Events**

Despite the constraints imposed by the pandemic in 2021, members of ICNOVA's research groups committed to holding dozens of public events, including national and international seminars and conferences, advisory boards, artistic productions, summer courses, evaluation panels for different specialties and competitions, juries for exams and academic projects, peer review teams for different academic publications and workshops for experimentation.

In addition, ICNOVA continued to organize the SOPCOM Conference of the Portuguese Association of Communication Sciences, which will take place on April 11, 12 and 13, 2022. At the end of 2021, ICNOVA members on the organizing committee of this conference helped complete the scheduling of the various panels that make up the conference programme.

### **Advanced Training**

Collaboration with PhD courses in communication science, digital media and artistic studies, resulting in a set of initiatives within the institutional model of cooperation between ICNOVA and the NOVA FCSH Department of Communication Sciences (e.g. workshops, seminars and open classrooms)

### **Adjustment of the organic unit**

In response to a list of growing activities and the challenges imposed by the pandemic, ICNOVA decided to expand its science management team. The reinforcement of the centre's human resources resulted in the hiring of one junior doctoral researcher that aims to provide ICNOVA with the necessary skills to better prepare applications for competitive project funding. This reinforcement was also intended to promote the permanent monitoring of the work and production rhythms of the centre so they can be adjusted to meet the academic reward criteria necessary for the centre to take a prominent position in the scientific ecosystem both nationally and transnationally.

### **Social impact of ICNOVA's research and innovation**

In 2021, researchers from ICNOVA were involved in important publically funded projects that resulted in valuable contributions with societal impact. These projects included studies on incivility and hate speech, cartographies of the position of political actors in social networks, and the deepening of issues related to children's use of online technology, communication and entertainment. Others concerned the design of educational strategies that aim to conceive, produce, make available and disseminate interactive digital educational resources; as well as the processes of preserving European identity, cultural plurality and cultural heritage, focusing on historically marginalized and under-represented cultural communities. There have also been many projects and products of an artistic nature produced with the ICNOVA seal that indicate the importance of societal impact as a hallmark of ICNOVA's mission. At the same time, ICNOVA is constantly redefining its purposes, which requires the innovative side of its programmatic agenda and critical mass to be

frequently revisited. In 2021, the new Media Innovation Observatory, Obi.Media, responded to a gap detected in ICNOVA's performance process.

### **Identification of transversal research focused on the SDGs**

The nature of the scientific work produced by ICNOVA researchers in 2021 positions the centre securely within the scope of research on the sustainability objectives defined by the United Nations. Particularly, our members have been doing research on objectives 3 (Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduction of Inequalities), 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships to Pursue Objectives).