

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

COST Action PACT – Lisbon Waterfront Case Study
Conference “Energy Transition & Waterfront Futures”
Lisbon, Portugal | March 2026

15 December 2025		Deadline for Abstract Submission
28 February 2026		Deadline for full paper submission

1. About PACT – Port City Territories in Action

PACT (Port City Territories in Action), COST Action **CA23138**, is a European network uniting interdisciplinary scholars, practitioners, port-city stakeholders, policy-makers, community actors, and more, with the aim to **address the challenges of energy transition in port city territories**.

PACT pursues six core objectives, including mapping, reframing, co-creating, including, envisioning, and transmitting knowledge across diverse port-city contexts.

Its approach is collaborative, inclusive, and oriented toward actionable outcomes: combining pilot studies, stakeholder engagement, methodological innovation, and cross-case comparisons to deliver socially just and ecologically grounded pathways.

2. The Lisbon Waterfront Case Study: Framing

Title: Energy Transition & Waterfront Futures

Dates: 25-27 March 2026 (three days)

Venue: Lisbon Metropolitan Area (with site visits along the Tagus estuary waterfront)

Lisbon's Tagus estuary presents a complex, layered territory where port operations, urban life, fragile ecology, heritage, and tourism intersect. Over decades, Lisbon has embarked on bold waterfront transformations (e.g. Expo 1998, regeneration of industrial zones, extension of public spaces) while confronting climate pressures, social inequities, and the imperative of decarbonization.

By positioning Lisbon as a **living laboratory**, this PACT event aims to explore how **energy transition** can be integrated into waterfront development, port-city synergy, climate resilience, and inclusive urban regeneration. The conference will bring together multiple voices - academics, local authorities, port authorities, NGOs, cultural actors, and community groups - to co-produce knowledge and open pathways into future European comparative work.

3. Conference & Program Structure

Day 1 – Framing the Waterfront: Theory, Governance & Policy

Keynotes and thematic panels will address specific themes, such as:

- Approaches to governance in port-city territories
- Energy transition frameworks and decarbonization strategies
- Climate adaptation, sea-level resilience, and blue-green infrastructure
- Equity, inclusion, and participatory governance in waterfront transitions

Day 2 – Methods, Practices & Transition Pathways

Focused sessions will include:

- COUNTER MAPPING of spatial, energy and infrastructure
- Case studies and experiential practices (European and global port cities)
- SENSORIAL WALK of transition pathways
- Artistic, cultural, and bottom-up initiatives shaping waterfront futures

Day 3 – On-site Exploration: Waterfront Immersion

A guided site visit — in collaboration with the Port of Lisbon — to selected zones (e.g. Alcântara, Belém–Pedrouços, Marvila–Beato) will allow participants to experience, in situ, regenerations, blue-green interventions, creative and community projects

4. Call for Contributions

We invite **academics, practitioners, port & city authorities, NGOs, community groups, cultural actors**, and **transdisciplinary teams** to submit proposals aligned with the theme **Energy Transition & Waterfront Futures**.

Contributions may take various forms:

- Research papers (theoretical or empirical)
- Practice-based case studies or project reviews
- Methodological innovations or tools
- Policy reflections or scenario explorations
- Artistic, design, or graphic interventions that frame transition imaginaries

4.1 Themes & Sub-topics

Aligned with **Energy Transition & Waterfronts**, possible (non-exhaustive) themes include:

- Strategies for decarbonization in port-city territories
- Integrating renewable energy systems in waterfront infrastructure
- Blue-green and nature-based solutions supporting energy, climate, and resilience
- Spatial, infrastructural, and mobility systems bridging port and city
- Socio-technical transitions and community-led energy initiatives
- Governance models and institutional frameworks for equitable transition
- Cultural, symbolic and narrative dimensions of waterfront energy futures
- Comparative perspectives across European or global port cities

4.2 Submission Guidelines

Abstract: 300–500 words, including title, author(s), affiliation(s), contact email

Languages accepted: English

Format: Word or PDF

Deadline for abstract submission: *15 December 2025*

Notification of acceptance: *10 January 2026*

Deadline for full paper submission: *28 February 2026*

Send proposals to: **pcbrg@iscte-iul.pt**

5. Organizers & Partners

The conference is organized in close collaboration with:

- ISCTE-IUL
- FAUL – Lisbon School of Architecture, University of Lisbon
- Port of Lisbon
- AIVP – The Worldwide Network of Port Cities
- Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) / Projecto CidadePortoTejo

Join us in Lisbon in March 2026 to explore how energy transition can reshape port–city territories and to contribute to a shared European vision of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient waterfronts.

