POLITEHNICA UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA
Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation
Department of Management

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PLAN OF THE

RESEARCH CENTER FOR ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT
(RCEM)
2024–2028

The Centre for Research in Engineering and Management (CCIM) is a research unit without legal personality, established within the Department of Management of Politehnica University Timișoara. CCIM brings together members of the academic community with strong performance in the fields of Engineering and Management and Public Administration, as well as young researchers aspiring to scientific achievements and an academic career. Associate researchers may also be part of CCIM. The Centre aims to collect research ideas and contribute to improving scientific performance at Politehnica University Timișoara.

1. CCIM Vision

CCIM's vision is aligned with the research vision of Politehnica University Timișoara, the Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation, and the Department of Management. Through its activities, CCIM seeks to strengthen research teams, improve the quality of research outputs, consolidate the material resources required for research, attract and develop the skills of young researchers, and increase national and international visibility.

Accordingly, CCIM's vision is to become a research centre of excellence at national and international level.

Research teams are strengthened by clearly defining research areas of national and international interest and identifying researchers with relevant skills and achievements in each area.

Improving the quality of research outputs involves publishing primarily in specialist journals indexed in recognised and reputable national and international databases, and increasing the number of research contracts at national and international level, as well as with the business sector.

To enhance prestige and national and international recognition, associate members with significant research achievements and extensive collaboration networks will be invited to join

The material infrastructure is developed primarily through research laboratories affiliated with CCIM. Continuous investment and consolidation of research infrastructure, including access to equipment, databases and software, are essential to achieving and maintaining the status of a research centre of excellence

Finally, the human-resources vision involves encouraging young researchers, postdoctoral researchers, doctoral students and master's students to participate in research activities.

2. CCIM Mission

CCIM's mission is to provide an appropriate framework for research activities, covering both fundamental and applied research, by delivering practical solutions and expertise to the national and regional business sectors and to public-sector decision-makers

CCIM's mission is aligned with that of Politehnica University Timișoara and supports the research mission of the Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation and the Department of Management. This ensures coherence and coordination in research efforts and the identification of interdisciplinary research topics responding to current national and international research needs

Research within CCIM is conducted by academic staff, doctoral and master's students, as well as external researchers, taking into account each researcher's areas of interest and the focus of each project team or research grant. Activities take place in the Centre's laboratories, doctoral students' workrooms or the room designated for CCIM meetings. CCIM activities are generally supported through funded research contracts and institutional partnerships with academia (other universities and research institutes) and private companies for applied research topics. In this context, CCIM's mission is to expand its research network and increase the visibility of its research activities

3. CCIM Strategic Objectives

CCIM's strategic objectives are designed to fulfil its mission while responding to current societal needs related to technological development, innovation, governance, economic policies, progress and cohesion

A. Attracting members genuinely committed to scientific research

The Research Centre includes academic staff and doctoral students from the Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation. The researchers involved in the Centre are listed below (Table 1).

Table 1. CCIM Membership

No.	Name	Research interests	PhD supervision
1	Prof. habil. Larisa IVAȘCU	Sustainable development; Marketing; Organisational strategy; Risk	IOSUD-UPT
2	Prof. Claudiu Tiberiu ALBULESCU	Financial macroeconomics; Banking and Finance; Financial management; Energy economics; Entrepreneurship and innovation	IOSUD-UVT, Doctoral School of Economics and Business Administration
3	Prof. Anca DRĂGHICI	Organisational dynamics; Ergonomics; Organisational culture; Knowledge management; Innovation	IOSUD-UPT
4	Prof. Marian MOCAN	Logistics; Strategic management	IOSUD-UPT
5	Prof. Monica PETREA IZVERCIAN	Marketing; Sustainable development	IOSUD-UPT
6	Prof. Gabriela PROȘTEAN	Project management; Organisational management	IOSUD-UPT
7	Prof. habil. Matei TĂMĂȘILĂ	Entrepreneurship; Organisational management; Public management	IOSUD-UPT
8	Assoc. Prof. Alin ARTENE	Audit; Accounting	IOSUD-UVT
9	Assoc. Prof. George BELGIU	Production process management; Design	
10	Assoc. Prof. Andreea MIHĂRTESCU	Marketing; User-centred design	

11	Assoc. Prof. Mircea NEGRUȚ	Construction project management; Systems engineering	
12	Assoc. Prof. habil. Adrian PUGNA	Quality management	IOSUD-UPT
13	Assoc. Prof. Ilie TĂUCEAN	R&D management; Organisational management; Innovation	
14	Assoc. Prof. Sabina POTRA	Managerial communication; Quality management; Marketing; Consumer behaviour	
15	Lecturer Cella BUCIUMAN	Operations research; Marketing	
16	Lecturer Caius LUMINOSU	Law and legislation; Environmental economics	
17	Lecturer Șerban MICLEA	Marketing; Entrepreneurship; Financial management	
18	Lecturer Gabriela STRĂUȚI	Management and marketing	
19	Lecturer Monica TION	Human resource management; Marketing	
20	Lecturer Attila TURI	Logistics; Management information systems	
21	Lecturer Mihaela VARTOLOMEI	Mathematical economics; European economics; International economic relations; Private accounting	
22	Lecturer Andra DIACONESCU	Project management; Communication and public relations	
23	Assistant Elena BOATCĂ	Ergonomics; Education; Digitalisation; Sustainability; Entrepreneurship	
24	—	—	
25	Doctoral students*		
26	Master's students*		
27	Associate members**		

Notă - *Cercetători cu statut de membru temporar al CCIM (Anexa 1). Anexa 1 se actualizează anual.
- **Cercetători cu statut de membru asociat al CCIM (Anexa 2). Anexa 2 se actualizează anual.

Note: * Researchers holding temporary CCIM membership (Annex 1). Annex 1 is updated annually. ** Researchers holding associate CCIM membership (Annex 2). Annex 2 is updated annually.

Temporary members (postdoctoral researchers, doctoral students or master's students) must account for at least 30% of permanent members. The CCIM membership list is updated according to members' results and status. Each permanent CCIM researcher must undertake at least one scientific research activity annually, demonstrated through publications, patents, conference participation or research grants. In the absence of such activity, exclusion from CCIM may be proposed and submitted for approval.

B. Defining research fields and identifying relevant research topics

CCIM's research is organised around two main fields: Engineering and Management, and Public Administration

Research in Engineering and Management is the defining field for CCIM and sets the main direction of its research strategy and tactics, aiming to enhance the prestige and image of the Department of Management and the Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Research visibility among stakeholders is to be increased by presenting results at impactful national and international conferences, workshops, round tables and seminars. The research topics in this field are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Research topics in Engineering and Management

No.	Research topic	Research team	Related grants and projects
1	Entrepreneurship and innovation	Prof. habil. Matei Tămășilă; Prof. Anca Drăghici; Prof. Claudiu Albulescu; Assoc. Prof. Ilie Tăucean; +1 doctoral student	"Impact of Economic and Financial Stability on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Activity in the EU" – PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-1760 (Director: Prof. Claudiu Albulescu)
2	Industrial symbiosis and sustainable development	Prof. Larisa Ivașcu; Prof. habil. Matei Tămășilă; Assoc. Prof. Ilie Tăucean; Assoc. Prof. Alin Arteme; +2 doctoral students and others	ECO NEXUS – Innovative technological solutions for urban and industrial circularity and symbiosis in the water–energy–materials–fertilisers nexus; CIDIF/159/PCIDIF_P1/OP1/RSO1.1/PCIDIF_A1; value RON 49,431,153
3	Industry 4.0	Prof. Marian Mocan; Prof. Larisa Ivașcu; Assoc. Prof. Ilie Tăucean; Assistant Attila Turi; +1 master's student	Flexible manufacturing line for simulating entrepreneurial activities in production (FlexSASTM), contract CNFIS-FDI-2019-0690
4	Digitalisation and entrepreneurship	Prof. Anca Drăghici; Maria Elena Boatcă; Cornelia Baeră; Caius Luminosu; Roxana Sîrbu; Prof. Marian Mocan; Assoc. Prof. Ilie Tăucean	DigiFunCollab – Developing digital self-learning courses in social entrepreneurship for future university–community collaboration
5	Circular economy, technologies and sustainability	Prof. Anca Drăghici (project manager); Maria Elena Boatcă (quality manager); Florica Manea; Aniela Popa; Assoc. Prof. Alin Artene; Caius Luminosu; Alin Gaureanu; Prof. Marian Mocan; Assoc. Prof. Ilie Tăucean	EDU4PlastiCircular – Education for Plastic in a Circular and Climate-Neutral Economy
6	Career management	Assoc. Prof. Sabina Potra; Lecturer Andra Elena Diaconescu; Prof. Claudiu Tiberiu Albulescu; Prof. Matei Tămășilă; Assistant Rebecca Ioana Chincea	Digital U2 – Design your future career in challenging times (RORS00106)
7	Other topics		

Research in Public Administration is also a concern of CCIM. This field is currently being consolidated, both in terms of defining research topics and identifying research teams. Its development requires encouraging research partnerships with public and private organisations and initiating collaborations within the European Research Area to promote research proposals and attract funding. The need to develop this field arises from the educational offer of the Faculty and from the use of CCIM research results in teaching. The topics are:

- Legal issues, communication and ethics in public administration
- Organisational dynamics – performance culture in public administration
- Environmental and energy economics

Table 3. Research topics in Public Administration

No.	Research topic	Research team	Related grants and projects
1	Legal issues, communication and ethics in public administration	Assoc. Prof. Sabina Potra; Lecturer Caius Luminosu; +1 master's student	
2	Organisational dynamics – performance culture in public administration	Prof. Anca Drăghici; Prof. Matei Tămășilă; Lecturer Șerban Miclea; +1 doctoral student	Research on knowledge management concerning industry–university collaboration in open innovation – PN-II-PT-PCCA-2013-4-0616 (Director: Prof. Anca Drăghici)
3	Environmental economics and urban marketing	Prof. Claudiu Albulescu; Prof. habil. Larisa Ivașcu; Assoc. Prof. Alin Artene; Lecturer Caius Luminosu; Lecturer Șerban Miclea; +2 doctoral students	
4	Project management in public administration	Prof. Gabriela Proștean; Assoc. Prof. Mircea Negruț; Lecturer Andra Diaconescu; +1 master's student	
5	Public management and sustainable local development	Prof. Matei Tămășilă; Assoc. Prof. Alin Artene; Prof. habil. Larisa Ivașcu; +1 master's student	Baseline studies: social surveys; trends in economic activity and socio-demographic evolution for Ghiroda commune and Giarmata-Vii village, Timiș County (third-party contract; Director: Matei Tămășilă); ECO NEXUS, code MYSMIS 336912
6	Economic policies and governance	Prof. Claudiu Albulescu; Prof. Matei Tămășilă; Assoc. Prof. Ilie Tăucean; Lecturer Șerban Miclea; +2 doctoral students; +1 master's student	"Impact of Economic and Financial Stability on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Activity in the EU" – PN-II-RU-TE-2014-4-1760 (Director: Prof. Claudiu Albulescu)
7	Institutional, local and regional development strategies	Prof. Marian Mocan; Prof. habil. Adrian Pugna; Prof. habil. Larisa Ivașcu; Lecturer Attila Turi; +1 master's student	

• ***Project management in public administration***

• Public management and sustainable development of local communities
• Economic policies and governance

• Institutional, local and regional development strategies

C. Encouraging scientific debate within the Centre

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the study programmes taught at the Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation, and especially the diverse research profiles of CCIM members, research is conducted in teams. To facilitate the exchange of ideas, obtain varied feedback and improve publication quality, CCIM members meet periodically, twice per semester, for extended discussions on topics of interest. These discussions address: (i) inviting external researchers and representatives of business/public institutions to CCIM meetings to present scientific papers (guest lectures) or issues of local or national interest; (ii) active participation of CCIM members in collective scientific debates; and (iii) attracting young researchers to CCIM activities. At the three meetings each semester, the Centre aims to include an external speaker, a scientific presentation by a CCIM member and a presentation by a doctoral or master's student.

All members of the Department of Management, including doctoral students, are invited to attend CCIM meetings

E. Regularly informing CCIM members and the Department of Management about research opportunities

CCIM members will be regularly informed by the CCIM Director and the Promotion Officer. Website information will be continuously updated

F. Improving the quality of research outputs

Improving research quality is a major concern of CCIM. According to the UPT Methodology for the Internal Evaluation and Accreditation of Research Centres, evaluation criteria include journal articles, books, patents, and research projects and grants

First, scientific output quality will be improved by regularly scheduling scientific discussions during CCIM meetings. Second, publication in Web of Science-indexed journals (Clarivate Analytics), publication of books with nationally and internationally recognised publishers, and obtaining research grants with national and international impact are encouraged. These criteria receive the highest scores under the above-mentioned methodology and enable CCIM to be classified as a research centre of excellence

G. Supporting scientific research activities within the Department of Management

CCIM activities are connected to research at the Faculty of Management in Production and Transportation and the Department of Management. CCIM members are therefore expected to actively participate in all research initiatives undertaken by the Faculty or Department

First, support is needed for the development of the Scientific Bulletin of Politehnica University Timișoara – Transactions in Engineering and Management, by submitting high-quality papers and encouraging external colleagues in the research network to publish in the Department's journal. The aim is to index the journal in as many international databases as possible and thereby increase its visibility. CCIM research should also be disseminated through publications in this journal

- Second, CCIM members should actively participate in organising and contributing scientific papers to the International Management Symposium, a long-standing conference organised in partnership with the Department of Management of West University of Timișoara. CCIM is expected to support all scientific events organised by the Department or Faculty
- Third, members should identify opportunities to develop teaching and research laboratories providing the infrastructure required for research at Department and Centre level (Annex 3). In addition to established laboratories, the development of new laboratories (EcosEc, LeanSusLab,

Google, etc.) should be supported through teaching and research activities. Developing the material resources of these laboratories is necessary to maintain CCIM's status as a research centre of excellence

- Finally, CCIM should engage in developing partnerships with industry and local and regional public institutions
- H. Increasing CCIM visibility
- CCIM's visibility must be increased in order to achieve research-centre-of-excellence status. The measures include:
    - Improving CCIM visibility on the ERRIS platform (Engage in the Romanian Research Infrastructure System). This initiative, launched within CCIM, is supported by Politehnica University Timișoara; activities will be undertaken to update the infrastructure.
    - Presenting and promoting CCIM in master's programmes to increase its attractiveness to young researchers.
    - Presenting and promoting CCIM to all doctoral students to increase its attractiveness to young researchers.
    - Promoting CCIM at scientific meetings and business-sector events.
    - Strengthening and improving the Romanian-language CCIM webpage as part of the Faculty website, with sections: Research team; Scientific events; Research infrastructure; Publications; Useful materials; Contact.
    - Strengthening and improving the English-language CCIM webpage as part of the Faculty website, with sections: Members; Scientific events; Infrastructure; Publications; Materials; Contact.
- Personal branding activities are needed for CCIM members. The CCIM website should include updated CVs of Centre members, and members should register on platforms that rank institutions and researchers (e.g. Publons, ResearchGate, RePEc Ideas, ResearcherID, Google Scholar, Academia, etc.) to increase the visibility of the research group
    - Other CCIM promotion activities may be undertaken as new opportunities are identified
    - Director of the Centre for Research in Engineering and Management
    - Prof. habil. Larisa IVAȘCU
    - Annex 1 – List of CCIM Temporary Members (2026–2027)
        - A. PhD students
        - B. Master's students

Annex 1 – List of temporary members of the RCEM (year 2026-2027)

A. PhD Students

No.	Name	PhD supervisor	Thesis title	Research interests
1	Mihai Ardelean	Prof. Larisa Ivașcu	Sustainability of clinical study centres in the context of global competitiveness	Sustainability and healthcare management
2	Ramona-Raluca Bălau (Stoia)	Prof. Anca Drăghici	Digitalisation of systems for food safety and quality	Quality; food safety
3	Aurelia-Ioana Biholar	Prof. Anca Drăghici	Strategic perspectives for increasing the efficiency and performance of Romania's national R&D institutes	R&D system; strategic management; digitalisation; performance and efficiency measurement; economic sustainability; national and European R&D strategies
4	Timea Cisma	Prof. Larisa Ivașcu	Strategies to improve Romania's capacity for the circular economy	Circular economy
5	Alexandra Coroian	Prof. Larisa Ivașcu	Research on green energy engineering and management in the context of sustainable development	Sustainability management
6	Roxana Tecu Damaschin	Prof. Gabriela Proștean	Enhancing social enterprises through digitalisation: integrating new technologies and artificial intelligence into decision-making mechanisms for their development	Circular economy; social entrepreneurship; decision-making; inter-institutional collaboration
7	Maria-Roxana Ene	Prof. habil. Adrian Pugna	A holistic model for developing new products and services using Design for Six Sigma, Kansei Engineering and Kawaii Engineering	Design for Six Sigma; Kansei Engineering; Kawaii Engineering
8	Etwilp Mahmoud Muftah Mahmoud	Prof. Marian Mocan	AI in Logistics	AI; logistics; management; strategic management; sustainability

9	Grațian-Daniel Goloșie	Prof. Matei Tămășilă	Competitiveness of pre-university education institutions	Institutional management; digitalisation and AI in education; institutional competitiveness
10	Sebastian-Norbert Hojda	Prof. Marian Mocan	Analysis of the use of EU Cohesion Funds in the 2014–2020 financial framework	Construction; EU funds; management; entrepreneurship
11	Ionel Lungu	Prof. Anca Drăghici	Strategies for developing urban ecosystem services to mitigate climate change effects	Urban ecosystem services; circular economy; smart city
12	Adile-Elena Nemoianu	Prof. . Adrian Pugna	A holistic model for developing human resource management services	HR; Lean; Six Sigma; AI; RPA; blockchain; automation; ISO standards; green economy and jobs; employee health; employer branding; urbanisation and digitalisation
13	Anastasia Roșca	Prof. Anca Drăghici	Resilient Green and Blue Cities: Integrating Plastic Waste Management Solutions for Urban Sustainability	Engineering and management; environmental protection; sustainable development
14	Valentina Tăucean	Prof. Anca Drăghici	Identifying a company's beneficial owner: a risk-based approach to improving transparency in international financial flows	Banking; beneficial ownership; legislation
15	Daiana Zifceak	Prof. Larisa Ivașcu	Innovative strategies to improve sustainability in agricultural management	Sustainable management
16	Dragoș Borugă	Prof. Larisa Ivașcu	Developing a digital transformation management model in customs to improve organisational performance and public service quality	Security; risk management
17	Ionuț Glăvan	Prof. Larisa Ivașcu	A strategic value-creation model for the industrial engine industry in	Marketing; competitiveness

			the circular economy: integration of aftermarket products and solutions	
18	Adrian Barbu	Prof. Marian Mocan	Strategic Risk & Resilience Management in the Automotive Supply Chain: An Integrated Model Based on Quality, Performance and Digitalisation	Strategic management; risk management
	(se va completa)			

B. Master's Students

No.	Name	Master's programme	Research topic	Email
1	Elena Gîngă	MAAA	HRM / Strategic management	elena.ginga@student.upt.ro
2	Oana Mamut	MAAA	Entrepreneurship	oana.mamut@student.upt.ro
3	Malina Drozd	MAAA	Strategic management / Project management	malina.drozd@student.upt.ro
4	Alisya Somrak	MAAA	Strategic management	alisya.somrak@student.upt.ro
5	Alexandra Vădean	MAAA	Strategic management / Logistics	alexandra.vadean@student.upt.ro
6	Ionuț-Denis Costan	MAAA	Strategic management / Process management	ionut.costan@student.upt.ro
7	Iulia-Alexis Bota	MAAA	HRM	biuliaalexis@gmail.com
8	Lisandra Popescu	IMC	Strategic management / Marketing	georgiana.popescu@student.upt.ro
9	Cosmina Huian	IMC	Entrepreneurship / Marketing	cosmina.huian@student.upt.ro
10	Roxana-Cătălina Marian	IMCC	HRM / Strategic management / Risk	roxana.marian@student.upt.ro
11	Mihai Apetroaei	IMSL	Strategic management / Logistics	mihai.apetroaei08@gmail.com
12	Elena Gîngă	MAAA	HRM / Strategic management	elena.ginga@student.upt.ro

Annex 2 – List of CCIM Associate Members

Prof. Arash Shahin, PhD
Professor of Quality Engineering and Management
Director of the Office of Industry Relations
Director of Quality Management Research Group
Department of Management, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran
E-mail (University): shahin@ase.ui.ac.ir
E-mail (Academic): arashshahin@hotmail.com

Prof. José Alberto Eguren, PhD
Industrial Organisation
Mechanical and Industrial Production Department
Mondragon Unibertsitatea - Escuela Politécnica Superior
Email: jaeguren@mondragon.edu
Website: www.mondragon.edu

Adriana Mușiu
Procurement and Supply Professional, Independent Contractor
Reskind, International
Email: adriana@Mutiu.net, adriana.mutiu@reskind.com

Simona Rus
Alpha Bank S.A. Romania
Email: simona_rus@yahoo.com

Florin Bogdea – doctor IM
Primăria Caransebeș
Email: bogdea@yahoo.com

Nicoleta Mirea – doctor IM
Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara
Email: nicoleta.mirea@student.upt.ro

(will be completed) – after proposals

MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (SELECTION)

LABORATORY SHEET

EcosEc – Sustainability and risk laboratory





Adresa: 300191 Timișoara, str. Remus nr. 14, etaj 1, sala M105

Responsabil: Prof.univ.habil.dr.ing. Larisa IVAȘCU

Gestionar: ing. Ioan NEGRU

Principalele dotări :

Equipment type	Equipment name	Year acquired	Teaching use	Research use
IT equipment	10 tablets	2019		
IT equipment	1 projector	2010		
IT equipment	Software tool for sustainability assessment	2019	X	X
IT equipment	Software tool for product circularity assessment	2019		

LABORATORY SHEET

LeanSuSLab – Lean & Sustainability



Adresa: 300191 Timișoara, str. Remus nr. 14, etaj 1, sala M104

Responsabil: Conf.univ.dr.ing. Ilie TĂUCEAN

Gestionar: ing. Ioan NEGRU

Principalele dotări :

Equipment type	Equipment name	Year acquired	Teaching use	Research use
IT equipment	1 projector	2010		
IT equipment	1. LEGO pieces for organisational processes 2. 3. 4.	2018		
IT equipment	SLIM game	2018		
IT equipment	Lean Simulation – The Game of Lean Manufacturing – Improve Performance Workshop	2018	X	X

LABORATORY SHEET

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH



Adresa: 300191 Timișoara, str. Remus nr. 14, parter, sala M015

Responsabil: Ș.l. univ. dr. mat. Liana PATER

Gestionar: ing. Ioan NEGRU

Principalele dotări :

Equipment type	Equipment name	Year acquired	Teaching use	Research use
IT equipment	Computer network (12 units)	2018		
IT equipment	3 computers	2007	X	X
General-purpose equipment	Internet access; 1 portable whiteboard	2008	X	X
Other equipment	Furniture (18 tables and 30 chairs)	2008	X	X