

# AuSpire Annual Event

27–29 April 2026

## Agenda



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## About AuSpire

The **Australia-Spain Network for Innovation and Research Excellence** (AuSpire GA N°: 101177949) is an ambitious, interdisciplinary program co-funded by the European Union that links Spanish and Australian research communities through 28 Postdoctoral Fellowships. Centred on the concept of Planetary Wellbeing, AuSpire aims to address global challenges by fostering research with meaningful, positive impacts on the planet's inhabitants and ecosystems.

## Research Areas

AuSpire Postdoctoral Fellows will carry out research in different disciplines within the areas of science and technology, including regenerative design; environmental sciences; engineering; computer science; materials science; optical communication; genomics; psychology; management and economics; and mathematical modelling to name a few. All projects will be shaped within the context of the concept of **Planetary Wellbeing**.

## AuSpire Coordinator

AuSpire is coordinated by **RMIT Europe**, the European hub of RMIT University, a global university of technology, design and enterprise with campuses in Australia and Vietnam. Based in Spain, RMIT Europe is the university's gateway for European research, industry, government and enterprise to innovation and talent in Australia and Asia.



**Maela Pascullo**  
AuSpire Project Manager  
RMIT Europe



**Tija Viktorija Vauhnik**  
AuSpire Project Assistant  
RMIT Europe



## About This Event

**RMIT Europe** and the **Barcelona Supercomputing Center** are pleased to welcome you to the first annual in person gathering of the Australia-Spain Network for Innovation and Research Excellence (AuSpire).



### Event Objectives

- Launch the network and find out more about AuSpire, its goals, objectives, ways of working and obligations.
- Learn more about Planetary Wellbeing and how it underpins the network.
- Get to know each other and the AuSpire Management Team.
- Take part in workshops and site visits.
- Participate in networking and social activities to start building our community.

### Program Highlights

- Consortium experts will explore the concept of planetary health in two dedicated **panel sessions** drawing on insights from AuSpire partner organisations.
- An introduction to the **RMIT Regenerative Futures Institute** and how their work offers practical solutions that rebuild and improve social, environmental and economic systems.
- **Meet the AuSpire Postdoctoral Fellows** in two Q&A sessions and learn more about their research plans.
- Training sessions with external facilitators on the **practical application of Planetary Wellbeing in research, how to be a research leader** and the **responsible use of generative AI in research**.
- Site visits to a Barcelona **urban garden** and Spain's most powerful **supercomputer**.



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## Practical Information

### Event Venue

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
Vèrtex (VX)  
Plaça d'Eusebi Güell, 6  
Les Corts  
08034 Barcelona

### Reaching the Venue

#### By metro

Nearest stop: Palau Reial (L3)  
Other local stops: Les Corts (L3), Plaça del Centre (L3), Maria Cristina (L3), Badal (L5), Collblanc (L5)

#### By tram

Zona Universitària (T1, T2, T3) serving the western edge of Les Corts, near Diagonal

#### By bus

Les Corts – Mejía Lequerica (H8), Travessera de Les Corts – Numància (V5, 54, 70), Av. Diagonal – Maria Cristina (H6, V7, 7, 34, 67, 67N)

### Photography and Videography

There will be professional videographers and a photographer during the event on 27 April 2026. Members of the RMIT Europe team will also be taking photos and short videos for social media during the three days.

Videos and photographs from the AuSpire Annual Event 2026 may be used on the AuSpire website, AuSpire social media and AuSpire partner channels.

### Contact Information

For urgent assistance during the event, please contact the RMIT Europe team on +34 620 784 988. WhatsApp is available on this number.

Follow AuSpire



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## Day 1: Monday 27 April 2026

Time (CET)	Location	Session
9am-9:30am	Sala d'Actes	Registration
9:30am-10am	Sala d'Actes	Opening Remarks
10am-11:15am	Sala d'Actes	Panel 1: Planetary Health - From Insight to Impact
11:15am-11:45am	Jardins	Group Photo and Coffee Break
11:45am-12pm	Sala d'Actes	Presentation: RMIT Regenerative Futures Institute
12pm-1:15pm	Sala d'Actes	Panel 2: Planetary Health - A Shared Challenge, A Collective Response
1:15pm-2:15pm	Jardins	Lunch Break and Networking
2:15pm-3:30pm	Sala d'Actes	Meet the AuSpire Fellows - Round 1
3:30pm-4pm	Jardins	Coffee Break
4pm-5pm	Sala d'Actes	Presentation: AuSpire Program Overview
5pm-6pm	Sala d'Actes	Supervisors Meeting with AuSpire Management Team
5pm-6pm	Jardins	AuSpire Fellows Video Interviews
7pm-9pm	<u>Jardí de l'Abadessa</u>	Networking Dinner



## Day 2: Tuesday 28 April 2026

Time (CET)	Location	Session
9am-10:30am	Room VS208	Training: Planetary Wellbeing Key Concepts and Practical Applications in Interdisciplinary Research - Part 1
10:30am-10:45am	Room VS208	Coffee Break
10:45am-11:45am	Room VS208	Training: Planetary Wellbeing Key Concepts and Practical Applications in Interdisciplinary Research - Part 2
11:45am-1pm	Room VS208	Meet the AuSpire Fellows - Round 2
1pm-2pm	Jardins	Lunch Break
2pm-3:30pm	Room VS208	Training: Key Concepts for Leading in Research and Beyond - Part 1
3:30pm-4pm	Jardins	Coffee Break
4pm-5:30pm	Room VS208	Training: Key Concepts for Leading in Research and Beyond - Part 2
6:30pm-8:30pm	<u>Tectum Garden</u>	Planetary Wellbeing Best Practices: Urban Gardens



## Day 3: Wednesday 29 April 2026

Time (CET)	Location	Session
9am-10:30am	Room VS208	Training: Generative AI for Research and Innovation Teams - Part 1
10:30am-11am	Jardins	Coffee Break
11am-1pm	Room VS208	Training: Generative AI for Research and Innovation Teams - Part 2
1pm-2pm	Jardins	Lunch Break
2pm-3:30pm	Room VS208	Fellows Meeting with AuSpire Management Team and Event Wrap Up
4pm-5pm	<u>Barcelona Supercomputing Center</u>	Partner Site Visit: BSC Supercomputer



## Speakers | Opening Remarks



**Peter Kakogiannis**  
**Deputy Head of Mission**  
**Australian Embassy in Madrid**

Peter Kakogiannis is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and before his current role he was a senior policy adviser to the Assistant Minister for Trade. During his career he has focused on foreign and strategic policy in Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific, and on digital trade policy. He has previously served overseas at the Australian Embassies in Jakarta and Chile. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University and a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science) from Melbourne University.



**Davide Cirillo**  
**Head of Machine Learning for Biomedical Research Unit**  
**of the Life Sciences Department**  
**Barcelona Supercomputing Center**

Davide Cirillo received an MSc of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology from University of Roma 'La Sapienza', Italy, and a PhD in Biomedicine from Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) and the Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG) in Barcelona, Spain. His research focuses on computational methods for precision medicine with a special emphasis on machine learning, network science and ethics of artificial intelligence.



**Marta Fernandez**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**RMIT Europe**

Marta Fernandez (MSc (UGR) PhD UCL, CEng, FIET, FRSA) is responsible for RMIT's operations in Europe, based in Barcelona. Prior to joining RMIT, Marta's career spanned senior management roles in the UK, including Global Research Leader at international consultancy Arup. She has a strong interest in regeneration, urban wellbeing, particularly the impact of design and technology for healthy ageing and has been a member of European expert panels for nature-based solutions in cities, energy efficient buildings and healthy buildings.



## Speakers | Panel 1: Planetary Health - From Insight to Impact



**Luis Salvador-Carulla**  
**Professor of Mental Health and Deputy Director of the Health Research Institute University of Canberra**

Luis Salvador-Carulla has been an advisor on mental health policy to the regional Governments of Catalonia and Andalusia in Spain, the Spanish Ministry of Health, the European Commission and the World Health Organisation. His research interests lie in the development of social and healthcare policy, focusing on incorporating new paradigms of care and decision-making.



**Susana Saiz**  
**Regional Leader for Climate and Sustainability Services Arup**

Susana Saiz, PhD in Architecture, MSc in Civil Engineering, LEED AP, WELL AP & Faculty, is an architect specialised in sustainability advisory with 26 years of experience. She is a Director at Arup and the Climate and Sustainability Services Portfolio within the Europe Region at Arup as well as global leader for the Human Health and Wellbeing skills network. Susana is a specialist in sustainability metrics and assessment. Her work has a focus on regenerative design, focusing on neuroarchitecture and the impact of the design on human health and wellbeing, understanding the built environment and its inhabitants as part of the ecosystem.



**Pedro Villanueva Rey**  
**Sustainability Head Cetaqua**

Pedro Villanueva Rey is a Senior Researcher and Head of the Sustainability Area at Cetaqua, the Water Technology Centre, with over a decade of experience in sustainability assessment and environmental decision-making. He holds a PhD in Chemical and Environmental Engineering and has built his career applying life cycle thinking to complex systems, including water management, energy, industrial processes and primary production sectors.



## Speaker | RMIT Regenerative Futures Institute



**Chris Speed**  
**Professor of Design for Regenerative Futures**  
**RMIT University**

Chris Speed's research explores how design methods enable communities to adapt toward regenerative futures, with particular focus on cultivating plurality and relational thinking within complex systems. His work investigates how design can foster divergent possibilities and impossible futures as approaches to navigating ecological, social, and technological complexity in the pluriverse.

## Speakers | Panel 2: Planetary Health: A Shared Challenge, A Collective Response



**Daniel Casellas Padró**  
**Scientific Director**  
**Fundació Eurecat**

Daniel Casellas, PhD in Materials Science (UPC-Barcelona Tech), has worked in R&D and technology transfer since 2000. He is currently Scientific Director of Eurecat and Adjunct Professor at Luleå University of Technology, Sweden. His research centres on applying fracture mechanics to optimise material selection and forming processes, such as cold and hot sheet forming, high-pressure die casting, and additive manufacturing.



**Juan Carlos Latasa López**  
**Technology Director, Head of Middle East Business Oil & Gas**  
**IDOM**

Juan Carlos Latasa López is an Industrial Engineer with an MSc in Energy Processes and over 32 years of experience in process, thermal, cogeneration, and chemical plants. He is an expert in process design, new technology analysis, and the execution of advanced process models, as well as the detailed design of critical equipment for process units. He has significant expertise and a strong focus on eFuels (co-processing, HVO units, synthetic fuels), decarbonisation, hydrogen units, gasification, and carbon capture.



## Speakers | Panel 2: Planetary Health: A Shared Challenge, A Collective Response



**Iago González Pazos**  
**Open Innovation Manager**  
**Monodon by Navantia**

Iago González Pazos is Open Innovation Manager at Monodon, the R&D and Venture arm of Navantia. He is a psychologist with master's degrees in Human Resources and Education, driven by organisational transformation and innovation. His work centres on developing new and innovative projects, engaging people in change, helping teams adopt new ways of working and adapt to evolving contexts so change is understood, embraced and sustainable.



**Carlos Alberto Prieto Velasco**  
**Manager of the Energy Transition Technologies**  
**Department**  
**Moeve**

Carlos Prieto works at Moeve Innovation Center as manager of the Energy Transition Technologies department, dealing with green hydrogen, CCUS, e-fuels, biorefineries, energy storage and sustainable mobility technologies. His current research interests focus on developing green technologies for mobility. These include green hydrogen production through novel conductive membranes, designing new catalysts, improving synthesis methods, and creating innovative electrochemical cell configurations for water electrolysis.



## Panel Sessions



### **Panel 1: Planetary Health - From Insight to Impact**

Join us for a discussion on the very real future of the green economy and how planetary health is shifting from concept to outcome.

In this panel, we will hear a cross-sector industry perspective on the activities of the private sector and why they matter at a time when we are arguably moving from green-washing to green-hushing.

#### **Panel Moderator**

Marta Fernandez (RMIT Europe)

#### **Panel Members**

- Luis Salvador-Carulla (University of Canberra)
- Susana Saiz (Arup)
- Pedro Villanueva Rey (Cetaqua)



## Panel Sessions



### **Panel 2: Planetary Health - A Shared Challenge, A Collective Response**

Planetary wellbeing is too complex for any one organisation to tackle alone, but complexity is also a source of opportunity. Real progress depends on collaboration that is purposeful, focused and built to deliver results, not just good intentions.

In this panel, representatives from universities, industry and research centres will draw on real experience to explore how partnerships can be made to work in practice: how to build alignment across different actors, turn ideas into impact, and use platforms like AuSpire to support long-term collaboration and lasting societal value.

#### **Panel Moderator**

Marta Fernandez (RMIT Europe)

#### **Panel Members**

- Daniel Casellas Padró (Fundació Eurecat)
- Juan Carlos Latasa López (IDOM)
- Iago González Pazos (Monodon by Navantia)
- Carlos Alberto Prieto Velasco (Moeve)



## Presentations



### **RMIT Regenerative Futures Institute**

#### **Presenter**

Chris Speed (RMIT University)

Learn about the soon to be launched Regenerative Futures Institute at RMIT University, a new interdisciplinary initiative advancing regenerative practice through education, research and collaboration.

The Institute will bring together expertise across design, science, technology and First Nations knowledges to explore how universities, industry, and communities can respond to complex environmental and societal challenges.

In collaboration with Arup, the Institute is engaged in AuSpire in a project addressing food systems and urban regeneration.



### **AuSpire Program Overview**

#### **Presenters**

Maela Pascullo (RMIT Europe)

Kinga Konya (RMIT Europe)

In this presentation, the AuSpire Management Team from RMIT Europe will cover different aspects of the AuSpire program, including reporting, ethics, governance, secondments, training and communications.



## Training Sessions

### **Planetary Wellbeing: Key Concepts and Practical Applications in Interdisciplinary Research**

#### **Facilitator**

Lela Mélon (Centre for Studies on Planetary Wellbeing, Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

In this training session, we will unpack the theory of Planetary Wellbeing and how to incorporate this concept into AuSpire research through practical exercises.

#### **Objectives**

- Understand what Planetary Wellbeing means and what its core concepts are.
- Share a common language and a cross-cutting conceptual framework.
- Identify ways to integrate this approach into research projects.
- Explore opportunities for interdisciplinarity, impact and collaboration.



## Training Sessions

### Key Concepts for Leading in Research and Beyond

#### Facilitator

Gavin Lucas (TPM Science)

Postdoctoral researchers are a somewhat forgotten collective in the research system, despite their key role in running research projects and in managing and training junior staff.

The goal of this workshop is to address their changing needs as increasingly expert researchers with growing responsibilities and pressures, both within academia and in industry contexts.

This interactive workshop will use innovative training methods and proven didactic techniques, with a special emphasis on sharing and learning from the participants' own expertise and experience. To increase impact and applicability, we work with real-life cases from the participants whenever possible.

#### Objectives

- Gain a renewed perspective on key transferable competencies for the postdoctoral stage and beyond.
- Gain perspectives on effective team dynamics, including supervision and feedback practices.
- Acquire a set of practical tools and methods that are immediately applicable in the working environment.



## Training Sessions

### Generative AI for Research and Innovation Teams

#### Facilitators

Jonas Krebs (Centre for Genomic Regulation)  
David Ahumada Brena (Centre for Genomic Regulation)

This session provides a practical overview of how Generative AI can be integrated into everyday research workflows, combining a conceptual introduction to how these tools work with practical examples relevant to academic research.

Participants will gain a clear understanding of the opportunities, limitations, and responsible use of AI tools, as well as practical strategies for applying them to tasks such as literature analysis, grant writing, and scientific communication.

#### Objectives

- Understand the GenAI landscape, including how LLMs work, their strengths, typical failure modes (hallucinations) and how to distinguish between general and reasoning models.
- Gain a practical overview of key tools: ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Claude AI, Gemini and NotebookLM, including their different licence types, privacy options, and how these affect professional use.
- Learn prompt engineering fundamentals: structured frameworks for crafting effective prompts (role, goal, context, reasoning, output format, quality checks).
- Develop a critical eye for assessing the quality, accuracy and completeness of AI generated content before using it in professional or research contexts (evaluating AI outputs).
- Explore responsible AI use including data protection, ethical considerations for citizen generated data, and disclosure requirements from EU funders.



## Networking Dinner

### **Jardí de l'Abadessa**

Carrer de l'Abadessa Olzet, 26  
Les Corts  
08034 Barcelona

The Jardí de l'Abadessa Restaurant has been one of the best kept secrets in the neighbourhood of Pedralbes for more than 25 years.

The networking dinner is an 11-minute walk from the AuSpire event venue.

Alternatively, travel two stops with bus 113 (get on at stop Sor Eulàlia d'Anzizu – Dulcet and alight at stop Joan d'Alòs - Miret i Sans).



## Site Visits

### Tectum Garden

Carrer Irena Sendler, 22  
Sant Martí  
08018 Barcelona

Tectum was created in 2020 with the aim of moving towards a more sustainable and local food production model. Born from the [Sostenipra](#) research group of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology ([ICTA-UAB](#)) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Tectum is a specialist in urban agriculture, providing interdisciplinary answers to the challenges of moving towards more sustainable cities.



### Objectives

- Learn about the concept of urban agriculture and what it means to adopt a circular approach in this sector.
- Visit the hydroponic garden, the composting system, and the rainwater harvesting system.
- Take part in a practical activity to plan the garden and plant in raised beds.

The site visit will be followed by local cuisine tasting using fresh products from the garden.

### Barcelona Supercomputing Center

Plaça d'Eusebi Güell, 1-3  
Les Corts  
08034 Barcelona

Barcelona Supercomputing Center-Centro Nacional de Supercomputación (BSC-CNS) is the national supercomputing centre in Spain and a partner in AuSpire. BSC specialises in high performance computing (HPC) and manages [MareNostrum](#), one of the most powerful supercomputers in Europe.



### Objective

- Learn about the most powerful supercomputer in Spain, housed inside the Torre Girona chapel, including the server room, cooling systems, and history of the centre.





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