DAISSy-HOU a key player:
4th SCALe Transnational Partners Meeting and Final Conference in Malaysia

A rich program of key events was successfully held from 4 to 8 May 2026, in Malaysia, as part of the European project "SCALe – Smart City Asean Learning Network", with the DAISSy Research Group of the Hellenic Open university (HOU) as the Greek partner. The main aim of SCALe is to develop a set of short courses focused on smart city skills, which can complement or enhance existing curricula or be combined to create new ones.

More precisely, the **4th SCALe Transnational Partners Meeting (TPM)** took place in person on Thursday, 7 May 2026, at the **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)** campus in **Sarawak**. This was the final in-person TPM, bringing together the project Steering Committee and the entire consortium to review SCALe's progress during its final implementation phase. Partners discussed overall progress, development of the SCALe online platform, delivery of the project courses, the Final Evaluation Report and the Final Impact and Evaluation Report, as well as dissemination and communication activities.



DAISSy-HOU was represented at the 4th TPM by **Achilles Kameas, Professor at HOU, Director of DAISSy, Scientific Coordinator of SCALe**, and **Dr Theodoros Panagiotakopoulos, DAISSy Project Manager and SCALe Management Coordinator**. They both contributed actively to the meeting sessions, by providing updates on the deliverables falling under the responsibility of the Research Group, and offering observations and proposals concerning project completion and the exploitation of its results. In addition, DAISSy-HOU fully explored the opportunity to develop new cooperations with Universities in Southeast Asia, by participating in a collaboration and networking session organized by the "**Directorate of Research and Industry Networking" of UiTM Sarawak**. The session brought together twenty (20) University representatives, so as to explore joint international research projects and publications.

The 4th TPM was firmly linked to the preceding **Design Thinking workshop**, held on Tuesday, 5 May 2026, at the **ERASMUS+ Resource and Learning Centre of UiTM Sarawak**. The workshop brought together forty (40) representatives from education, research, innovation and local government. During the event, **Prof Achilles Kameas** offered a commemorative **gift on behalf of HOU** to the **Rector of UiTM Sarawak, Prof Firdaus Abdullah**, delivering a thanking message for the excellent organization and hospitality.







Furthermore, the 1st International Conference for Sustainable Smart Cities (ICSSC 2026), entitled "*Capacity Building for Sustainable Smart Cities Network*", played the pivotal role during the SCALe program in Malaysia. The conference took place in-person, on 6 and 7 May 2026, in Kuching, and was also streamed online. The paper on "**Design, Implementation and Evaluation of an Online Course for Open Data City Officers**", authored by **T. Panagiotakopoulos, F. Lazarini, A. Kameas, P. Fitsilis, P. Tsoutsa** and **V. Kyriatzi**, was presented at the conference, as a result of collaboration among the HOU, the University of Patras and the University of Thessaly, in Greece.

The paper, one of seventeen (17) presented by members of the SCALe consortium, describes the design, implementation and evaluation of an online course for the role of Open Data City Officer and is included in the conference's electronic proceedings. The twenty-two (22) micro-courses and nine (9) vocational training programmes developed by the SCALe consortium were also presented, with DAISSy-HOU making a significant contribution to this achievement.

It is noteworthy, that the Research Group has played a multifaceted role in the project. It contributed to identifying the skills underpinning the SCALe collection of short courses and defined the educational methodology for developing and delivering e-learning courses. In addition, it contributed to the development of learning material and coordinated both face-to-face and online workshops, while taking responsibility for their evaluation and the preparation of related reports.

↳ The SCALe project runs for three years (July 2023–June 2026), is co-funded by the European Union's ERASMUS+ programme and is implemented by a consortium of fourteen (14) partners from two (2) EU Member States (Greece and Italy) and three (3) Asian countries (Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand), with the HOU Research Group participating as the Greek partner.

↳ For more information about the SCALe project by DAISSy-HOU:
https://projectscale.eu/

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