



Re-UNITA

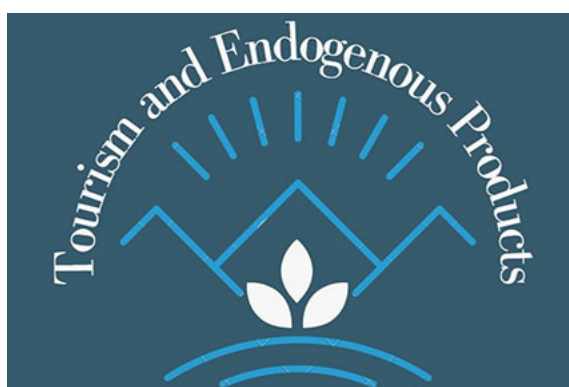
RESEARCH Newsletter

Editorial

On 4th of July, we received the good news that UNITA - Universitas Montium, the Alliance of European Universities coordinated by the University of Turin, has been awarded a loan of over 14 million euros until 2027, thanks to the approval of the proposal presented in the Erasmus+ 2023 call of the European Universities Initiative. The European Commission evaluated the first 3 years of work as highly worthy, also considering the enlargement of the number of Alliance members and assigned the maximum funding to the project. Today UNITA has 10 member universities and 2 associated partners from 7 countries, will thus be able to continue operating in the European higher education area and will contribute to revolutionizing the quality and competitiveness of European higher education. New clusters of research HUB will be launched and satellite projects as Re-UNITA and INNO-UNITA will be developed, with the common aim to promote interdisciplinary research. By forging partnerships with institution specialized in different fields, the alliance fosters a rich and dynamic environment where diverse perspectives converge. The Alliance also offer a unique opportunity for students to forge their global European citizenship through student exchange programs, joint PhDs where young minds can broaden their horizons and cultivate global perspectives. UNITA 2.0 represents for old and for new partners a bold step towards a world where knowledge, education, innovation run beyond boundaries and where the concept of European citizenship is a cornerstone of our academic life.

*Cristina Prandi
Vice-Rector for Research University of Turin*

Cultural Heritage



Tourism and Endogenous Products Project

Prof. Cristina Estevão, Prof. Helena Alves and Prof. Zelia Serrasqueiro, from University of Beira Interior are the mentors of the "Tourism and Endogenous Products Project". This project is focuses on promoting the local cuisine, emphasizing the use of endogenous products, both for strategic tourism and cultural preservation. It targets emerging markets and aims to investigate how these authentic ingredients influence tourist decisions, contributing to regional tourism development. By showcasing the gastronomic culture and its significance in the region's identity, it aims to attract more visitors and tourists, fostering sustainable growth.

<https://fb.watch/LV2p-p1U8r/>

Circular Economy



Eco-friendly packaging for fresh food products

This project involves the researchers Ângelo Luís (Health Sciences Research Centre, University of Beira Interior) and Filomena Silva (GUIA group, University of Zaragoza) and will provide new state-of-the-art active packages produced by bio-based films/laminates for fresh foods, increasing their shelf-life and reducing food waste. In packaged fresh foods, shelf-life relies on two key features: oxidation and bacteria/mould spoilage. So, this project will focus on tackling both these issues by creating packaging materials that will employ essential oils as antioxidants and antimicrobials.

Renewable Energies



Lithium, cobalt and rare earth: critical elements of the energy transaction

The massive development of new technologies to produce and store energy from renewable sources is the biggest challenge in recent years. But the energy transition must take into account the limited availability of the necessary raw materials. The research of Prof. Marco Minella, of UniTo's Department of Chemistry is aimed at identifying critical issues and proposing possible alternatives, particularly in photovoltaic and wind technologies and lithium batteries.

PhD student of the month

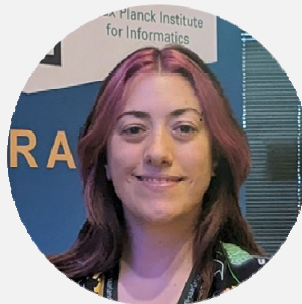


Diana Gomes

Diana Gomes holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. degree in Biotechnology from the University of Beira Interior (UBI), where she is currently working toward a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry. Funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), the PhD aims to develop a therapeutic strategy for cervical cancer using a combination of *in silico* and *in vitro* methods to investigate potential inhibitors/blockers of HPV-16 oncoproteins.

In 2020, Diana Gomes had a 4-month Erasmus+ internship at Istituto Nazionale Tumori Regina Elena in Rome to develop novel diagnostics and therapies for HPV. Diana received several awards including 5 Best Oral Presentations and won the “Promove - Ideias 2023” Contest with an innovative diagnostic method for cervical cancer. Earlier this year, she received a Fulbright Research Grant to conduct part of her PhD work in the United States. Diana aims to work in the pharmaceutical industry to develop novel biopharmaceuticals for the treatment of diseases.

Woman researcher of the month



Ana Serrano, recipient of the Eurographics Young Researcher Award

Ana Serrano is an Assistant Professor at Universidad de Zaragoza. She specializes in visual computing, exploring novel user-centered approaches rooted in perception to enhance user experiences and develop intuitive content creation tools for computer graphics and virtual reality. Her impactful research, recognized internationally, highlights collaborations with industry leaders and contributions to open science. She actively promotes research dissemination and strives to inspire diversity in STEM fields.

Award: <https://i3a.unizar.es/es/noticias/la-investigadora-del-i3a-ana-serrano-recibe-el-premio-eurographics-young-researcher>
<https://www.eg.org/wp/eurographics-awards-programme/the-young-researcher-award/young-researcher-award-2023-ana-serrano/>
Ana Serrano’s web: <https://ana-serrano.github.io/>

Highlights

UNITA PhD International Talent Challenge 2023/2024

As part of Re-UNITA, an international competition was launched to promote an innovative attitude and recognize talent among early-stage researchers. The contest is open to PhD students enrolled in any PhD Program of Re-UNITA Universities.

More info: <https://univ-unita.eu/Sites/unita/en/Evento/1365>.

Registrations are open until 30th of October.

Contact: reunita@univ-pau.fr | Website: <http://univ-unita.eu>



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