RE-UNITA's SEEDING PROOF OF CONCEPT PROGRAM

Call for innovative research projects for entrepreneurial initiatives

The name UNITA evokes the commitment of six universities (Università degli studi di Torino, Universidad de Zaragoza, Université Savoie-Mont Blanc, Universitatea de Vest din Timişoara, Universidade da Beira Interior and Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour) to a closer integration of their academic activities. Particularly, RE-UNITA project looks for sharing policies and practices related to research and innovation.

A Proof of Concept (PoC) is a demonstration or a prototype of a concept, idea or technology that is used to validate the feasibility and potential success of a project. A Proof of Concept project is typically a small-scale project that aims to prove the viability of an idea or technology, and to gather feedback from stakeholders.

In this context, RE-UNITA's Seeding Proof of Concept program will provide seeding funding for a small proof of concept project among those presented by teams comprised of at least two RE-UNITA partners. The objective of this call is to empower R&I based entrepreneurship in the UNITA community and to contribute to the cooperation between members of the different Universities of RE-UNITA project.

This call will be governed by the following rules:

1. Any research team within the six RE-UNITA partners is eligible to participate. Every team has to be composed by participants at least from 2 different Universities in the Alliance. A member of the team from a UNITA University can be any person considered an affiliate of this University, and may include students, PhD students, post-docs, tenured professors, researchers, etc.

2. Applications will consist on an 8-pages maximum report describing a Proof of Concept project; this report will follow the next guidelines:

   a) The report will have to introduce the project by describing the context, the problem to solve and the opportunities it may raise in the market, other solutions available if they exist and R&I results that support the Proof of Concept project (up to 2 pages).
   b) The report will also have to describe how the project is going to be developed, including a roadmap of proposed activities, a presentation of the team and its ability to perform these activities, and the innovative approach to the solution of the problem. A brief explanation of how the budget will be spent connected to a timetable of activities should also be included (up to 4 pages).

c) The impact of the project has to be clearly addressed. Its innovation potential, which may include aspects such as IP policy, technology transfer, startup creation, etc, has to be openly defined (up to 2 pages).

d) There will be a corresponding researcher from the team that will be the contact person for all the communications related to this call.

e) A template of the report will be available for the participating teams as an annex to this document

3. The team of the selected project will receive a budget of 3500 € to start its development. The team will cooperate with the UNITA project for informational and awareness-raising purposes, as well as for the defence of the project's objectives, always citing the name of the author, initiative and project.

4. The selected project will be disseminated through the communication channels of the UNITA constellation. The presented but not selected projects will be also disseminated in the community through the Re-UNITA newsletter/webpage.

5. The call will close **in 17th May 2024, 12h CET**

6. A Commission formed by the six members of the Re-UNITA external scientific board (ESB) and by one member of each University from the task force of the WP5 of project RE-UNITA, as listed in the UNITA Datacloud at the closing time of the call, will judge the different applications.

7. The criteria for the evaluation of the different applications will include: relevance of the problem to be solved (20%), innovative approach of the proposed solution (40%), project planning and budget use (20%) and impact of the solution in our society (20%).

8. In the event that the Commission considers that the projects do not meet the minimum quality requirements, the winning project may be left deserted. In any case, the Commission will have the ability to make the decisions it deems most appropriate and its decisions will be final.

9. The selected team should present a final report within one year time including any evidence they may consider of the progress of the project (prototypes, user experience improvement, new innovative results…)

10. To apply for this call, please send the Application Report, following the model attached below, to the address info.reunita@unizar.es and idominguez@unizar.es

RE-UNITA'S
2024 PROOF OF CONCEPT PROGRAM

APPLICATION REPORT

CORRESPONDING RESEARCHER:

NAME OF THE PROJECT:

UNIVERSITIES INVOLVED:

DATE:

Acronym and Project Title:

Executive summary (1 page)

1. __Project Introduction - (maximum 2 pages)__

Include context, problem to solve and how the market is addressing it, and R&I results supporting the project

2.   Project description - (maximum 4 pages)

Present the team, show the innovative approach to the solution of the problem and how the team plans to develop the project. A brief explanation of how the budget will be spent, connected to a timetable of activities should also be included

3.   Impact - (maximum 2 pages)

The impact of the project has to be addressed. Its innovation potential, which may include aspects such as IP policy, technology transfer, startup creation, etc, has to be clearly defined