



Re-UNITA

# RESEARCH

## Newsletter

### Editorial

#### UNITA new Research and Innovation Cartography

The involvement of new partners and the creation of new R&I Hubs with the expansion of UNITA into UNITA consolidation phase make it necessary to reinforce its existing communities in Cultural Heritage, Green Energy, Circular Economy and Environment and to develop new ones in Global Health, Digital Transitions and Inclusive Societies.

Aiming at developing the scientific activities focused on these thematics, the existing UNITA R&I Cartography is being updated. After the Call for Expression of Interest launched in January 2024 and subsequent work of the R&I Hubs, the second version of the Cartography is about to be released. It contains almost 1300 records with detailed description of projects being actually carried out by researchers of the Alliance. It is a very convenient tool to identify possible collaborations within the Alliance and to develop common projects that might also be supported by UNITA in the form of Matching Events, Starting Grants and Advanced Grants and finally, to strengthen UNITA research contributions and scientific signature to European Research and Innovation Programmes.

This Cartography is for all researchers, students, and stakeholders who want to be involved in producing R&I knowledge and develop subsequent projects across Europe and in UNITA. Just try it and join!

[Access the Research and Innovation Cartography](#)

Prof. Frederic Marias  
Re-UNITA and UNITA WP4 Coordinator  
Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour

### Cultural Heritage



#### Food Heritage. UVT's Projects & Concerns

West University of Timisoara has recently been involved in a series of projects focusing on food heritage. We are talking about a topic relatively new in Romanian research (and, in general, not well known in Eastern European countries). These projects have different objectives and challenges, being supported by different authorities (regional, national or local).

Some of these, such as the *Digital Collection of Romanian Food Heritage - FOODie*, involved several institutional partners (four universities and two research institutes) and aimed to carry out research all over Romania. This project also had a number of very strong humanities research objectives: field research, documentation activities in archives, transcribing interviews, editing audio and/or video tapes (<https://hera.uvt.ro/>), classifying materials, creating a real repository of Romanian food heritage, publishing research results.

West University of Timisoara

### Circular Economy



#### Are eco-gestures effective?

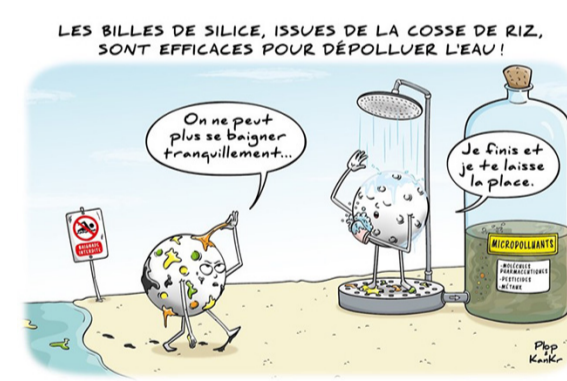
To combat global warming, is it effective to raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage people to adopt eco-gestures?

Eco-gestures refer to everyday actions taken by citizens to reduce their environmental impact. A [recent research](#) by Rémi Mencarelli and Dominique Kréziak ([IREGE laboratory](#)) that these small gestures can trigger a virtuous circle. Indeed, they favor a constellation of small gestures emerges, multiplying over time and linking together to reduce household waste in various spheres of domestic life.

University of Savoie Mont Blanc

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### Renewable Energies



\* Silica beads, derived from rice glue, are effective at removing pollution from water!

\*\* « We can no longer swim in peace... »

\*\*\* « I'll finish and give you my place. »

#### Alba Rodriguez Otero

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Rice husks, a by-product of the rice industry, are one of the most widely produced agricultural wastes in the world, with the majority being burnt and disposed of. This research project aims to valorise rice husks, as they contain a large quantity of bio-silica, an extremely porous material used in a wide range of applications. In addition, while extracting bio-silica through rice husks pyrolysis, a valuable by-product is generated: bio-oil.

While bio-oil can be utilised as a source of energy and chemicals, bio-silica can be employed to develop a bio-filter capable of removing organic pollutants and toxic metals from water. This research was conducted within the framework of a cotutelle between UPPA at IPREM laboratory and at the University of Copenhagen with a group which specialises in organic micropollutants in water.

University De Pau Et Des Pays De L'adour

## PhD student of the month



**Corina Isabella Csiszár** is PhD researcher (1<sup>st</sup> year student) of the West University of Timisoara, part of RHeA Research Center. Her PhD thesis focuses on the ritual and magical use of Belladonna, with a case study on Romanian region of Maramureş. In February and March 2024, Isabela was actively involved in the field documentation related to Re-UNITA “Old New Villages” project dedicated to PhD students.

It worths mention that Isabella is one of the key persons in Maramures Department’s Center for the Study of Traditional Civilization being specialized in directing and producing Romanian ethnographic movies. She received several important awards in national contests (see, for instance, [here](#) or [here](#)) dedicated to ethnographic movies which document traditional life in Maramures historic cross-border Romania - Ukraine region. Isabella has also an important editorial experience, being one of the editors of [Memoria Ethnologica](#), a relevant journal for the Romanian ethnological and heritage studies.

Due to her experience and national recognition in the field of intangible cultural heritage preservation, Isabella was one of the key persons in preparing the documentation for two of the Romanian Living Human Treasures, in the framework of UNESCO’s 2003 Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage: [Valer Burzo](#) and [Nicolae Pitiş](#).

More details on RHeA research group [here](#).

## Woman researcher of the month



**Florence Magnin**, geomorphologist and CNRS research fellow at the [EDYTEM laboratory](#), was awarded the 2024 bronze medal by the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). Her work focuses on permafrost, the permanently frozen ground found in the Earth’s coldest regions, which plays a crucial role in the stability of mountain slopes. With global warming, permafrost is increasingly subject to thawing, which can lead to rock falls or avalanches, putting local populations at risk.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zGolUstQkw>

Contact: [Florence.Magnin@univ-smb.fr](mailto:Florence.Magnin@univ-smb.fr)

## Infrastructure of the Month



NECE Research Unit in Business Sciences is a Department of Management and Economics research centre at the University of Beira Interior (UBI).

One of the equipments of NECE is the BITalino PsychoBIT. This infrastructure is designed for basic psychophysiological data acquisition such as pulse, blood pressure, respiration, and skin conductivity, complete with all the accessories needed to start working. This bundle is completely assembled with our 3D Printed Casing for BITalino (r)evolution Plugged making it more convenient to use, wearable, sharable & transportable. The core of our PhsycoBIT is our BITalino (r)evolution Plugged.

More info: [PLUX Biosignals | PsychoBIT](#)

Check available infrastructures and contact details at: <https://reunitaresearchinfrastructure.i3a.es/en>

## Highlights

For the 3rd consecutive year, the UNITA Innovation Prize will spotlight the most innovative ideas.

This competition is open to all innovative project leaders, regardless of your specialty.

It welcomes all creative souls among students, professors, researchers, and startups; aiming to foster innovation in all its forms.

<https://www.ubi.pt/Sites/unita/en/Evento/1498>

ReUNITA SpinOff Forum 2024 (6 jUNE) Registration:

<https://eventos.unizar.es/116453/tickets/spinoff-forum.html>

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