



Re-UNITA

RESEARCH

Newsletter



Welcome to the latest edition of our Re-UNITA research newsletter, where we celebrate the innovative achievements made throughout the Re-UNITA project. As we work to enhance collaboration and amplify our collective impact, sharing successful strategies has become increasingly vital. In this issue, the Vice Rectors for Research from our universities highlight the key benefits gained from the project, emphasizing the importance of exchanging good practices and engaging in intense collaborative work.

Our collective efforts have led to significant advancements, including enhancements in human resource policies focused on gender balance and the HRS4R framework. We've established a platform for shared infrastructures, developed training programs in entrepreneurship and open science, and mapped out potential collaborations with civil society and public actors engaged in research. This collaborative work has also facilitated the dissemination of research activities across our alliance through this newsletter and our dedicated research website. Additionally, we are proud to present a strategic roadmap aimed at enhancing the research activities and scientific impact of our alliance.

From my point of view, a significant achievement has been the establishment of a board where Vice Rectors for Research meet monthly. This board has fostered mutual understanding and trust among members, enabling them to make informed decisions that propel our alliance forward in the research arena. This collaborative structure truly sets our alliance apart and enhances our effectiveness in research-related activities.

This edition reflects the active engagement of the Vice Rectors in advancing intensive research initiatives within UNITA. I extend my gratitude to them, as well as to all contributors for their dedication to the project and for being integral members of this vibrant academic community!

Prof. Frédéric Marias
Re-UNITA Project Coordinator

The final number of the RE-UNITA Newsletter is a special issue that marks the closing of the project and its major achievements. It also means an opportunity for individual and collective balance and reflection on this project's impact on our universities as members of the UNITA alliance.

As Vice-Rector for Research and coordinator of the Re-UNITA project activities at UBI, I could witness the broad and transversal impact Re-UNITA had at UBI, considering the generality of WPs and their associated tasks.

From the Re-UNITA project implementation, we have nurtured our research strategy in multiple dimensions, such as ethics and integrity in hiring human resources, support and development of research careers, sharing of research infrastructures, networking and project consortia, thesis cotutelles, interaction with the different stakeholders, and driving innovation, open science, and interdisciplinarity.

UBI had the honor and privilege of coordinating WP5, which was pivotal in stimulating the university-industry cooperation, providing best practices reports, organizing innovation forums, and launching the proof-of-concept calls and innovation prizes, boosting R&D&I relationships within the Alliance. UBI was also responsible for structuring and disseminating the Re-UNITA Newsletter, one of the WP2's predicted deliverables. With its defined structure encompassing the sections: i) research projects, ii) PhD students of the month, iii) Women researcher of the month, and iv) Infrastructure of the month, the newsletter was instrumental in disseminating the UNITA research activity. It also was a vehicle to promote the values of the Re-UNITA project and UNITA alliance, such as gender-balance, equity, diversity, and inclusivity.

After 32 uninterrupted monthly issues, the newsletter culminates in this final special issue, having, during the past years, fulfilled its role in fostering academic collaboration, showcasing innovative discoveries, and amplifying the impact of research within and beyond the UNITA community.

Silvia Socorro
Vice-Rector for Research, University of Beira Interior



As a Vice-Rector for Research at the University of Zaragoza, I would like to highlight the impact of the creation and development of the scientific infrastructure sharing programme. Thanks to a common agreement, signed by the 6 Rectors in Timisoara in June 2022, 25 researchers from the partner universities have made use of the analysis services from another university, and 5 technicians/researchers could learn in situ how to use some equipment. These are the basis for subsequent collaborations. Special thanks to the General Research Support Service (SAI) and thanks to all those who have made this proposal such a success.

Rosa Bolea Bailó
Vice-Rector for Research. University of Zaragoza

The Reunita project has enabled us to raise the profile of research within the Alliance, by bringing together the vice-rectors in charge of research, establishing a common research strategy, creating better inter-knowledge and, lastly, reflecting on new methods to strengthen our impact, particularly around the development of interdisciplinarity.

For the USMB, it was a rich experience, leading to numerous scientific collaborations, equipment sharing and thesis cotutelles, and the sharing of best practices with partners, which notably contributed to the HRS4R label.

We are delighted to have been part of this wonderful experience and look forward to seeing it continue in UNITA 2.



*Mareva Sabatier
Vice-Présidente Recherche / Vice-Rector for Research
Université Savoie Mont Blanc*



The ReUNITA Alliance has had a significant impact on the University of Turin, representing a key opportunity to develop innovative and interdisciplinary research programmes at the European level.

The University of Torino took full advantage of the project activities, especially in the WP3 and WP4 tasks, to improve its research structures and strategies.

Through the creation of a network of shared infrastructures (WP4), the University of Turin was not only able to strengthen its own research capacity but also to benefit from the constant comparison with the Alliance partners' operational methods. Based on the experience in UNITA, UNITO has launched its own program to strengthen the Research Infrastructures (Infrastructure Innovation Worksite) and to network them which will have important repercussions on the Alliance in a logic of sharing best practices.

This exchange of expertise and best practices proved invaluable in optimising the management of infrastructure resources and enhancing the efficiency of its systems.

In WP3, which is dedicated to human capital, the University of Turin benefited greatly from activities aimed at supporting the growth of researchers and promoting greater attention to gender equality.

The Mentoring Programme, a practice recognised at the European and international level, was designed to support the careers of young male and female researchers by providing the university with concrete ideas for implementing more inclusive and targeted professional development policies.

These results have set the foundations for the consolidation of the Alliance and offered the University of Turin a solid platform on which to build new paths of growth, continuous improvement and internationalisation of research.

*Professor Cristina Prandi
Vice-Rector for Research UNITO*

The RE UNITA project has consistently contributed to increasing the alliance's cohesion from the perspective of ensuring the best institutional premises for scientific research, in correlation with the ERA and EHEA principles. Thus, groups of researchers were structured to promote participation in joint research projects and common interdisciplinarity approaches were defined. UVT managed, through this project, to mark major progress towards implementing the HRS4R. Also, exciting sessions ensuring key skills for the professional development of PhD students, researchers and research staff, at all stages of their careers were carried out. A centralization of the research infrastructure was established and promoted and procedures by which UNITA researchers can use it jointly were implemented. The publication in the Open Science regime was rewarded. A multipolar virtual campus was created to enhance the transfer of research results to the economic environment. Numerous Living labs and open seminars addressed to NGOs and authorities took place, and innovative events promoting the concept of Citizen Science were implemented.



*Vice Rector,
Madalin BUNOIU*

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



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 101035810.