



Re-UNITA

# RESEARCH Newsletter

## Editorial

From the consortium formed by the six partner universities of the ReUNITA Project, Research for UNITA, we face the final stretch of the project with the same enthusiasm with which we started it in September 2021.

There are many activities scheduled until the end of the project in next August: the calls for open publication awards, the opportunity to request the use of scientific infrastructures at other universities, the next SpinOff Forum, the last call for the Unita Innovation Award... We continue to be committed to collaboration in research, to bringing our universities closer together, enabling the creation of joint projects and greater and better mobility among the people who participate in them. We want to continue our work to improve the working conditions of research staff through the HRS4R strategy and the excellent mentoring work that aims to facilitate the research career of doctoral students or recent doctorates. We also want to bring research results closer to society in general, NGOs and other public administrations through events and living labs.

We will continue working in order to strength the bonds of collaboration that will enable joint advances for our universities and society as a whole.

Rosa M<sup>a</sup> Bolea Bailo  
Vice-Rector for Research  
University of Zaragoza

## Cultural Heritage



### Women, culture and the rural world

The *GynoCultRural* project brings together researchers from three universities in the UNITA consortium (UPPA, UNIZAR, Beira Interior) to address the issue of women's visibility in creative and cultural practices in rural and interior areas. The aim of the project is to propose new ways of promoting and developing women's culture and thinking in rural areas, in order to promote the recognition of women's creativity and knowledge, to broaden the points of reference used to construct the identity of contemporary societies, and to consider women's culture as a lever for social innovation and rural development.

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## Circular Economy



This collaborative project brings together researchers Ana Paula Duarte and Sílvia Socorro from the Health Sciences Research Centre at the University of Beira Interior, alongside Gregory Chatel from the EDYTEM Institute at the University Savoie Mont Blanc and will explore the valorization of viticultural waste from Portugal and France, aiming to extract and enrich bioactive mixtures as an initial phase of valorization, within the context of a circular economy. Consequently, this research proposal aims to reunite substantial preclinical evidence with the potential for translation into pharmacological development to tackle unmet clinical needs in cancer treatment.

CICS-UBI - Health Sciences Research Centre  
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## Renewable Energies



### Hi2BIO: Green and sustainable hydrogen production from wastewater

Researchers from the University of Zaragoza, Laura Grasa (Instituto Agroalimentario de Aragón, IA2) and Jesús Salafranca (Instituto de Investigación en Ingeniería de Aragón, I3A) are working with the company Ingeniería de Obras Zaragoza S.L. on the Hi2BIO project, part of the Plan for Recovery, Transformation and Economic Resilience (PERTE) of critical sectors for the future, which aims to produce green hydrogen from industrial wastewater in a sustainable way.

It integrates different biological processes to maximise the efficiency of green hydrogen production. Its main objectives are to study dark fermentation, which does not require the use of light, and serial photofermentation, which does require light. It also aims to evaluate different bacterial inocula to select the most efficient one. In a second phase, a prototype will be designed and built for testing in simulated environments. Finally, different gas treatment alternatives will be analysed to achieve 95% hydrogen purity.

The project is funded by the European Union through NextGenerationEU and by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Institute for Energy Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE) for three years until July 2026.

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<https://ingeobras.com/tecnologias/hi2bio/>

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## PhD student of the month



### Clément Lacombe, PhD student in Energy Law

University of Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, (France, ED 481), TREE, UMR 6031

Clément Lacombe has been working for three years as a PhD student on the energy consumer theme, focusing specifically on the figure of the prosumer and the energy citizen, figures that can be grouped under the term “autonomous energy consumer”. The aim of the research is to analyze how the consumer, once passive, becomes an actor in the market, both economically and politically.

On the side, he is interested in the economic analysis of environmental law, with the writing of several articles.

[More about TREE research unit](#)

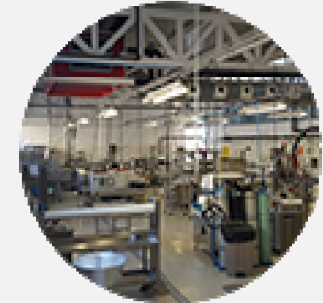
## Woman researcher of the month



**Liliana Bernardino** holds a PhD in Molecular Biology (2008, University of Coimbra, Portugal). Her doctoral studies revealed a groundbreaking dual role of cytokines in neuronal survival, challenging the prevailing perception that inflammation is solely detrimental. Research was conducted at the Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology (Coimbra), Mario Negri Institute (Milan), and the University of Southern Denmark (Odense). In 2008, Liliana Bernardino was awarded a Postdoctoral FCT fellowship, significantly advancing knowledge by revealing new targets to enhance neurogenesis and neuroprotection useful for brain repair therapeutic strategies. From 2010 to 2012, she was appointed Invited Assistant Professor at the Catholic University of Portugal, followed by Assistant Professor (2012-2023), and currently holds the position of Associate Professor with Habilitation (2023-present) at the University of Beira Interior. Her current scientific aim is to unveil novel therapeutic targets and strategies for Parkinson's disease.

[Read interview >](#)

## Infrastructure of the Month



**Food Science and Technology Pilot Plant**  
Faculty of Veterinary Science  
Agri-Food Institute of Aragon (IA2)  
UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA (UNIZAR)

Singular infrastructure equipped with food processing equipment; physical-chemical, process and microbiological analysis laboratories; sensory analysis room and demonstration kitchen; and other complementary infrastructure.

The Plant has two officers and a laboratory technician with exclusive dedication, as well as the collaboration of more than 15 University Professors, specialists in various aspects of Technology, Engineering, Microbiology, Hygiene and Biochemistry of Foods, experts in: Technologies of food preservation, Science of meat, milk, fish, wines and vegetables.

More info:

<https://reunitaresearchinfrastructure.i3a.es/en/node/235>

## Highlights

Re-UNITA Workshops "Research Challenges for Cultural Heritage, Circular Economy and Renewable Energies in rural and mountain areas" will take place at University of Beira Interior (UBI), Covilhã, Portugal on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

More info: <https://www.ubi.pt/Evento/12178>

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