



Re-UNITA

RESEARCH

Newsletter

Editorial

The final conference of the ReUNITA project, hosted on July 2 2024 at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (UPPA), marked an important milestone for Research and Innovation in Europe.

The event concluded three years of intensive collaborative work among UNITA Alliance institutions, involving about 100 participants including faculty, researchers, administrative staff and students. During the conference, the main results achieved were presented, highlighting the significant impact of the activities carried out.

ReUNITA has worked on several fronts, including developing joint and interdisciplinary European research programs, attracting European researchers at all stages of their careers, creating a network of shared research infrastructures, promoting the economic vitality of mountain regions and cross-border communities, and disseminating research results to society. A major goal was to overcome barriers to interdisciplinarity in partner universities by facilitating collaborative research and promoting innovative approaches in the areas of cultural heritage, circular economy and renewable energy.

In addition, the project developed a strategy to attract talented researchers, enhance the Alliance's human resources, and promote gender equality in research.

The most successful activities, such as the creation of a network of UNITA Alliance research infrastructures, a mentoring program for young researchers, and a roadmap for achieving the HRS4R (Human Resources Strategy for Researcher) label, will feed into the consolidation phase of UNITA.

From 2024 to 2027, the UNITA Alliance, now composed of 12 universities, will use the results of these three years to elevate institutional cooperation to the next level.

The final conference in Pau celebrated the successes of the ReUNITA project and provided a springboard for future collaborations and innovations.

Commitment to the development of European societies, the promotion of democratic values, linguistic diversity and inclusion will continue to guide the activities of the UNITA Alliance, helping to build a European University that promotes a way of life based on democratic and inclusive values.

Cristina Prandi

Vice-Rector for Research University of Turin

Cultural Heritage



Intermittent City. Temporary Uses and Sharing Practices for an Adaptive Urban Space

Intermittent Cities Project explores urban transformation processes triggered by temporary uses and sharing practices, named as Intermittent Practices. The project systematizes these practices' multiple facets, evaluates their impacts on new architectures and ways of experiencing, planning and managing urban space, speculating on future scenarios.

Using an Action Research approach, it aims to propose tools and design methods that drive spatial transformations through Intermittent Practices, encouraging more adaptive cities.

University of Beira Interior
<https://intermittentcity.fa.ulisboa.pt/intermittent-city/>

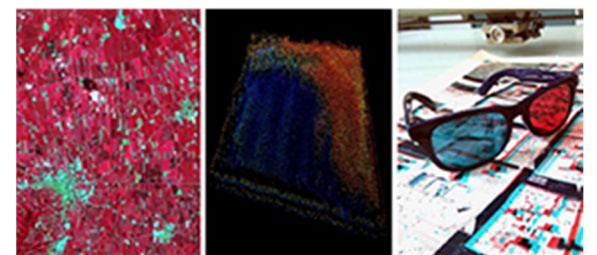
Circular Economy



In the last 10 years, global onion production has increased by at least 25%. This increases demand for processed onions. Agro-industrial residues have attracted attention for their applications in the field of biodegradable packaging and our research group has developed onion-based films with promising properties for this type of application due to their non-toxicity, biocompatibility and biodegradability. Therefore, in this study, we investigated the effect of Laponite clay concentration on the physicochemical and antioxidant properties of the onion-based films, which were prepared by a casting method.

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Renewable Energies



Geomatics is an essential multidisciplinary discipline for the study and modeling of land use. At the University of Turin, a specialized research group uses geomatics to support agriculture, forest management, ecology and urban planning. This group acquires and processes geographic and remote sensing data to measure and represent the land, using satellite, airborne and drone remote sensing for agronomic applications, forest characterization, multi-temporal land analysis and LiDAR data processing. Geomatics supports sustainable land management and technological innovation in precision agriculture and environmental monitoring. The working group consists of Barbara Drusi, Carlo Grignani, Federica Larcher, Andrea Lessio, Franco Ajmone Marsan, Renzo Motta, Vittorino Novello, Dario Sacco.

Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Food Sciences of University of Torino.

PhD student of the month



Mariana Fiadeiro is a PhD student from Health Sciences Research Center of University of Beira Interior (CICS-UBI), under the supervision of Drs. Ana Clara Cristóvão (CICS-UBI), Mara Freire (CICECO-UA) and Gilberto Alves (CICS-UBI). Her PhD thesis focuses on the pre-clinical validation of a new pharmacological approach to prevent Parkinson's disease progression.

She was one of the finalists in the latest edition of the "My 3min PhD Thesis" European competition, and she found it as one of the best experiences to share science, to amplify her contacts with other researchers and institutions, and to improve her communication skills.

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Woman researcher of the month



Inmaculada Martín Burriel

Professor of Genetics at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Zaragoza, Director of the Agri-Food Research Institute of Aragon (UNIZAR - CITA) and member of the Institute since its creation. She is also a member of the Health Research Institute of Aragon (IIS Aragon) and The Neurodegenerative Diseases Area of the CIBER (CIBERNED). She holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Zaragoza, with pre-doctoral stays at the Ohio State University and the Norwegian Veterinary School. She then obtained a Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowship to develop her research at the pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Synthelabo in France, which allowed her to get to know the business world. She returned to the University of Zaragoza with a Ramón y Cajal contract and has since carried out her research at this university, continuing with her international focus.

Throughout her scientific career she has applied molecular genetics to various aspects of animal production and human and animal health. In this field, she has been the coordinator of the Master in Global Health of the University of Zaragoza from its implementation until 2023, of the strategic line of research in One Health of the IA2 and is currently participating in the creation of the Aragonese One Health Network, which will be coordinated by the IA2.

[Read interview »](#)

Infrastructure of the Month



Biomass & Waste Management Group

The research group (BWMG) has been active for more than two decades in the field of sustainable management of agricultural and livestock effluents and energy production from biomass and by-products. The BWMG is responsible for managing the Biomass & Waste Management Lab, a facility of the Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Food Sciences (DISAFA) in Grugliasco.

<https://reunitaresearchinfrastructure.i3a.es/en/node/63>
<https://www.wmg.unito.it/>

Highlights

UNITA PhD International Talent Challenge | Announcement of the winning teams
<https://www.ubi.pt/Sites/unita/en/Noticia/11691>

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



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