



## UPDATES REGIONAL, EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS – Maison de l'Europe et des Territoires

### New UniCA projects recently selected for funding

- **Horizon Europe**

**INBUILT**, a collaborative R&I project, aims at develop and characterize a wide range of innovative building products, either based on bio-sourced or geo-sourced solutions, or on recycling and re-use solutions. All of these products will be tested at four demonstration sites across Europe. The project takes a holistic approach, including social and societal analysis, to study the determinants for the development of economic sectors dedicated to the tested products. Coordinated by Erwin Franquet, Director of the Buildings Department at Polytech'Lab, INBUILT brings together 18 European partners from nine different nationalities, including 4 universities, 2 research centers, 10 innovative SMEs, and 1 large company.

**HOPE-On ABSolEU**, led by the ICN laboratory (Dr. Nathanaël Guigo), has been ongoing since 2022. Within the "Hop On Facility" call for projects of HE programme, the University of AVIERO in Portugal was able to join this collaborative research and innovation initiative. Indeed, this European mechanism allows institutions from less research and innovation-performing countries to participate in an already selected EU collaborative projects. UCA was able to benefit from an increase in its budget as the general project coordinator. As a reminder, ABSolEU brings together 12 partners across sectors and aims to develop innovative recycling solutions based on a systemic circular economy approach to keep ABS plastics in circulation.

- **Digital Europe**

**SPECTRO** is a collaborative initiative, that focuses on designing and delivering two Master's double degree programs (ISCED level 7, 120 ECTS) in cybersecurity and robotics. The project plans to deploy a series of standalone learning modules on topics related to these two technologies, as well as a minor in innovation and entrepreneurship. SPECTRO brings together 12 higher education institutions from 7 EU countries, 2 innovative SMEs, 1 research center, and EIT Digital. At the UCA level, this project is led by Polytech Sophia (Françoise Baude), contributing particularly to the development and delivery of the specialized Master's program in robotics

**EMAI4EU** is a projet led by Polytech Sophia. While aligning with the EIT Digital Master School and SPECTRO, this project aims to educate the next generation of specialists and innovators in Emotion Artificial Intelligence in Europe. To achieve this goal, it envisages the design and delivery of a dual-degree master's program in artificial intelligence with a specialization in emotional AI. The deployed modules will result in a set of certifications in advanced digital skills issued by 8 higher education institutions from 5 different countries. Additionally, the EMAI4EU consortium brings together 4 innovative SMEs, a leading AI research center, and EIT Digital.

- **INTERREG Alcotra**

**INTEVIDI** (Digital technological innovation for the rehabilitation of social interactions throughout the life cycle) is a project led by a Franco-Italian consortium of which UniCA (CoBTeck Laboratory) is part of. The general objective of the project is to promote the digitalization of the health sector by integrating into social and health services and supporting practitioners, patients and their families in the use of technologies that facilitate treatment, evaluation and the rehabilitation of disorders linked to social interactions in different population groups (children, adolescents, adults and elderly people). The final objective is to encourage the adoption of digital tools to promote more equitable access to health services in France and Italy. INTEDIVI starts on January 1, 2024 for a period of 3 years.

- **Erasmus+ 2023**

BeGlobal is a capacity-building project that Université Côte d'Azur has been able to secure with its project partners from academic institutions in Chile, Colombia and Finland. Responding to current issues specifically raised by the European Commission, the project aims to train Latin-american students and target audiences, in the skills and soft competencies needed to become and act as true global citizens. To acquire this knowledge and skills in an innovative way, the project will enable these audiences to collaborate together through the production of thematic content for a Serious Game, linked in particular to the notions of social responsibility and the SDGs. Academic and administrative staffs from these universities will also be trained and supported to create, manage and animate international experiences for the society.

In addition, UniCA obtained the validation for 3 other projects which will contribute to modernize and improve the quality of higher education of different regions of the world, and in various sectors such as food supply, internationalization and English economic studies improvement.

- **Young Innovative Researchers (Regional funding)**

**DIMICARE** (Innovative Start-up) aims to develop new families of antimicrobials to fight against resistant bacteria including Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA). The postdoctoral researcher is attached to the C2M laboratory.

**SPLEAT** (Innovative Start-up) aims to develop a very low-consumption neural processor (SNN) for embedded Artificial Intelligence applications. The postdoctoral researcher is attached to the LEAT laboratory.

- **US Air Force Defense Research Sciences Program**

**Liquid Crystal Sustainable Materials and Composites** is funded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, through its European Office of Aerospace Research and Development, which funds research in Europe. It aims to synthesize innovative materials for the space sector and to develop composite materials for satellite parts. This project allows the ICN laboratory and UniCA to establish research collaborations and exchanges with US Air Force research laboratories in the space sector. The project lasts 3 years and the UniCA budget is 360,000 Eur.

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## Throwback on the European Researchers' Night

Organized by the Science and Society Department of Université Côte d'Azur and its research partners, the European Researchers' Night returned for its fourth edition in Nice, on Friday September 29 in Valrose! This year it was placed under the theme of "Our Futur(s)" and invited participants to explore together the diversity of possible futures. An evening full of activities in the different spaces including the Europe Space of the International Development and Europe Department



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## Start of the FishHEALTH project: Evaluation of the health status of fish populations in 3 sustainable fishing zones in the Région Sud

Mediterranean marine ecosystems, particularly fish populations, are facing increasing threats due to the growth of anthropogenic activities in coastal areas. Among the most significant threats to fish assemblages are overfishing and the destruction of habitats, such as anchoring pleasure boats in *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows and the development of artificial structures along the coastline that disrupt shallow coastal areas. However, fish populations play a crucial role in the functioning of marine ecosystems, facilitating energy transfer within the food web and supporting local economic activities such as artisanal fishing. In this context, it is essential to monitor the health of fish communities by studying their diversity and composition.

The aim of FishHEALTH led by ECOSEAS is to assess biodiversity and monitor ichthyological diversity and the state of trophic networks in three Natura 2000 zones on the French Riviera. Two of them are located in the Var department (Corniche Varoise and Estérel), and one is in the Alpes-Maritimes department (Cap Ferrat). Two sampling campaigns (warm season: September / cold season: January) are planned over two consecutive years.

The project, financed up to 350 000€ by FEAMPA (European and national contribution), started in July 2023 and will end in August 2025. It builds on the continuity of the RECIF project. Led by ECOSEAS, the RECIF project involved standardized monitoring of fish populations in eight No-Take Zones (NTZs) in the Mediterranean in 2022, four of which are included in this new project.

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## UniCA welcomes Central Asian delegations for a Study visit within the framework of the European project on healthcare LMQS

On August 30, as part of the Erasmus+ project funded by the European Commission, Université Côte d'Azur welcomed project partners from Greece, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. On the Agenda of the Study Visit, the foreign representatives actively participated in defining the next deadlines and activities expected to enable the roll-out of open and distance learning professional bachelor's and master's degrees in strategic quality management and healthcare risk management.

The study visit, accompanied by project management sessions, took place at the Pasteur Campus, under the guidance of Professor Pascal Staccini.

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## Université Côte d'Azur hosts the 4th Transnational Project Meeting of the Erasmus + HYBOT project



The partners of this project, from Lithuania, Estonia, Germany and Portugal, met at Valrose Castle on 28th and 29th September to take stock of the activities already carried out as well as to plan the calendar of the remaining activities. The training modules and the community of practice are some of the activities that Université Côte d'Azur coordinates within this project. The Erasmus + HYBOT project aims to explore the potentials of hybrid teaching for universities and to develop novel concepts. This is to be done with the help of chatbots, i.e. intelligent virtual assistants.

Chatbots are already actively used in various industries for entertainment or information purposes. Chatbots can also play a significant role in education and specifically in the development and implementation of hybrid learning scenarios by acting as digital assistants to teachers and taking over or supporting various functions.

To create and implement a good chatbot-based hybrid teaching concept requires specialized knowledge, pedagogical skills and, last but not least, a dose of enthusiasm. All these building blocks will be put together in the three-year HYBOT project with the goal of building competencies of university teachers in designing and implementing hybrid learning and teaching scenarios using chatbots. For this purpose, supporting tools such as an online training program for the development of chatbots, a handbook with the good practices of hybrid teaching in Europe and worldwide, and a transnational "Community of Practice" will be developed and tested during the project. In addition, university teachers participating in the project will demonstrate the acquired knowledge and competencies by creating their own hybrid scenarios and chatbots and testing them with students.

## Erasmus + projet MOB4ALL project holds final event in Seville



The final meeting and event of the Erasmus + MOB4ALL project, in which Université Côte d'Azur is an active participant, was held in Seville (Spain) on 14 and 15 September.

The University of Seville held the final event of the Erasmus+ Mob4All project of the Ulysseus European University, which aims to improve the university mobility of students with disabilities. To this end, the training guide was presented to volunteer students, internationalization and diversity staff, tutor teachers and teachers of the online training course developed by the project.

The Mob4All Guidelines for Mobility Officers, Academic and Non-Academic Staff and Tutor Students is currently nearing completion. This guidelines aims to support Higher Education Institutions and the network of actors involved in a mobility giving them tools to guide, accommodate, support and integrate students with special needs in international mobility.

## UPDATES ULYSSEUS

### COMPASS Conference: Transferable skills for research and innovation



This conference, organised by Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences in Finland, took place on 4 and 5 October 2023. This event provides participants with an international forum to address the key research and innovation challenges currently faced by the EU and being tackled by the Innovation Hubs of the Ulysseus alliance. The conference will facilitate cooperation between researchers and peers from all Ulysseus partner universities and beyond.

UniCA is helping to raise the profile of this event by sending 3 researchers to present their work and around 15 students to attend the many presentations.

More info: [COMPASS Conference: Transferable Skills for Research & Innovation - Ulysseus](#)

## UPDATES ATTRACTIVITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

### 2nd Meeting of the European University Association's Thematic Peer Group on Transnational Joint Education Provision

UniCA will host a meeting of the [European University Association's](#) (EUA) thematic peer group on Transnational Joint Education Provision, which will take place on Valrose Campus from Thursday, October 5 to Friday, October 6, 2023.

The EUA Thematic Peer Groups focus on salient subjects of higher education learning and teaching and are composed of selected European experts in the field. The peer experts explore good practices and promote a bottom-up approach to advising European universities through their final report for ensuring the success of student learning.

UniCA has been represented through its experts in the EUA's thematic peer groups since 2020. This year Natalia Timuş and Virginie Oddo from International Development and Europe Department represent UniCA in the group on Transnational Joint Education Provision.