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Who we are





UNITA is an alliance of six comprehensive research universities from five countries with different sizes and trajectories gathering together more than 160 000 students and 13 000 staff members. From West to East: Universidade de Beira Interior (UBI), Universidad de Zaragoza (UNIZAR), Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour (UPPA), Université Savoie Mont Blanc (USMB), Università di Torino (UNITO), and Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara (UVT).

UNITA is based on a solid background of experience in strategic university networks and joint research, as well as in educational and innovation projects. We share a firm will to cooperate on the basis of mutual trust in a transformational project that aims to establish a new model of teaching, research and innovation that is increasingly collaborative and

integrated, through greater mobility and with strong links to our ecosystems. UNITA is not only composed of Universities, but also of relevant actors in each regional ecosystem represented by the socio-economic sector, public authorities, policymakers, and civil organizations. The name UNITA - almost the same as Italian unità (unity) - evokes the strong links and commonalities that bring us together to create a ground-breaking and innovative alliance aiming at a closer integration. The subtitle *Universitas Montium*, written in Latin, stresses that UNITA universities all speak Romance languages and are committed to fostering linguistic diversity and to the development of rural and cross-border mountain areas.

Besides sharing the commitment to contribute to the development of our societies and territories in a European dimension, we also have in common three constitutive key features:

- we are located in rural and cross-border mountain regions across southern, central and eastern Europe: Serra da Estrela (Beira Interior), the Pyrenees (Pau and Zaragoza), the Alps (Savoie Mont Blanc and Torino), and the Banat Mountains (Timisoara), i.e. in ecosystems sharing similar challenges;
- we intend to actively use Romance languages in addition to English, thus enhancing linguistic diversity and promoting inclusion;
- we share innovative educational and research areas, especially in the fields of Renewable energies, Cultural heritage, and the Circular economy, in particular the Bioeconomy, which yield a considerable propogative impact, both in terms of the sustainability of the ecosystems and in terms of employability for students and citizens.

The choice of these three areas matches several areas of the Smart Specialization Strategies developed by our Regions, thus contributing to reinforcing the synergies between universities and local actors in terms of financial support from the EU and the provision of graduates.