



Re-UNITA

# RESEARCH Newsletter

## Editorial

Intercomprehension is one of UNITA's cornerstones. Implementing it requires tackling a number of challenges that interest many of the UNITA's researchers, who come from different disciplines: linguistics, didactics, educational sciences, history, sociology... The IC2023 conference, held at Chambéry on 12 and 13 October, organised by UNITA, the Apicad association, members of the IPLERA project and the Università Roma 3, highlighted the fact that the practices used to implement intercomprehension must take into account the context (school, academic, professional, etc.) and the languages involved. Intercomprehension also calls for a reflexive look at the impact in terms of skills acquisition, as well as real effectiveness in terms of plurilingual communication.

*Fabrice de Poli and Alice Fiorentino  
Researchers at the LSSETI Lab, USMB*

## Cultural Heritage



### "The Alps: barrier or hinge?"

This research by the University of Turin aims to highlight the specificities of the western Alpine area by analysing settlement aspects and socio-economic relations between the Alpine slopes, in order to understand whether the Western Alps constituted a barrier, as is often claimed, or instead a hinge between the communities populating them.

The study concerned not only the settlement aspects and socio-economic relations of the communities, but also the cultural, literary and artistic expressions over a long period (from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th century), carried out also by means of iconographic documentation, interviews and videos.

The first results of this research were presented during a Conference held in early 2018 and organised in collaboration with the International Centre for Research on Cultural Heritage.

The impact of the research goes in the direction of enhancing the cultural and environmental heritage of the Western Alps, aiming to boost tourism and the dissemination of knowledge on the specificities of the mountains.

More info on the research and the team: <https://shorturl.at/rGIR9>

## Circular Economy



### A circular approach towards food systems

On October 2nd, 2023, the WUT community gathered in the University Urban Garden for the event "A circular approach towards food systems", part of the U\*Night - Researchers' Night. The event was organized by the Innovation and Technology Transfer Centre at the West University of Timișoara; the hour-long moderated talk featured 5 experts, including Nicoleta Ianovici and Mihai Lungu, researchers in Biology and Physics from WUT, Paul Năstase, EcoDot Co-founder and CEO, and Alexandra Petcu, as moderator.

The event focused on raising awareness and offering a profound understanding of interdisciplinary circular food systems. It emphasized practical collaborations between academia and the private sector, spotlighting entrepreneurship, innovation, and circular economy approaches. Key questions delved into speakers' perspectives on circular food systems, their contributions and those of other key regional stakeholders. A particular emphasis has been put on the benefits and challenges of academic-private collaboration, such as the collaborative research between WUT and EcoDot, aimed at providing scientific evidence for the technological processes of the EcoDot micro biodigester, as means to recycle food waste. This event provided accessible insights into research outcomes and initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable food systems, while also promoting the benefits of citizen science and accessible communication of research results.

<https://www.uvt.ro/cercetare/2023/09/invitatie-eveniment-economie-circulara-in-gradina-urbana-uvt/>

## Renewable Energies



The MODELEC (MODÈLES JURIDIQUES DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ PHOTOVOLTAÏQUE) research project, led by the [Centre Antoine Favre](#) and the [Solar Academy Graduate School](#), has identified and analyzed the legal obstacles and opportunities to develop photovoltaic projects, from design to installation and operation, and proposed the necessary legal changes for each phase. The result is a collective work published in 2022 by [Presses Universitaires Savoie Mont Blanc](#).

Contacts: [David Bailleul](#) et [Hélène Claret](#)

## PhD student of the month



**Elena Storta** is a PhD student UniTo, with a project entitled: Geodatabase of Piedmont ornamental stones and their use in the Cultural Heritage. Her research is based on the study and valorisation of the enormous stone heritage of the Piedmont region, a subject that intertwines and has a close link with the cultural heritage. The main aim is to make people understand that stone is testimony to a geo-history that interprets the geological evolution of the territory itself, the significance of processes on the surface and is an integral part of the community and the territory from its origins.

## Woman researcher of the month



**Adriana ISVORAN** has a doctorate in physics and is a professor at the Department of Biology-Chemistry, West University of Timișoara, where she teaches physics, biophysics, bioinformatics and cheminformatics. She was a post-doc at the Atomic Energy Center Saclay (France) and has a long-term collaboration with several universities and research institutes in France, her activity in the bilateral Romania-France collaboration being awarded in 2016 with the *Diploma of Excellence* by the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation and the French Embassy in Romania. She received the Habilitation in Biology in 2017 and is a member of the Doctoral School of Natural Sciences. She is responsible for the Computational Biology section of the Advanced Environmental Research Laboratories. Her research focuses on predicting the pharmacokinetic profiles and toxicological effects, both for humans and the environment, for numerous xenobiotics, on identifying the molecular targets of these compounds and on modeling their interactions with the molecular targets taking into account the stereochemistry of the compounds. Her research highlights and advocates for the stereoselectivity of chemical compounds to be considered in safety assessments and regulatory decisions. She managed numerous research projects, one of them, *From mine to river. The water guardians!*, being awarded in the REGIOSTARS 2023 competition in category *A green Europe* (<https://regiostarsawards.eu/>).  
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3068-2642>

## Highlights

In Brussels the Re-UNITA Newsletter was highlighted as Best Practices of European University Alliances on Forum “Cross-Alliances - R&I Dimension in European Alliances of Universities”.

[More info](#)

Conference of the Innovation Prize - [join us](#)

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Contact: [reunita@univ-pau.fr](mailto:reunita@univ-pau.fr) | Website: <http://univ-unita.eu>



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