

#20  
October  
2023



Re-UNITA

RESEARCH  
Newsletter

## Editorial

This year, for the second time, UNITA Alliance has taken part in UNIGHT, the UNITA edition of the European Researchers' Night, 29-30 September 2023. Initiated by the European Commission, this event for the general public takes place every year on the last Friday of September in many parts of Europe.

UNIGHT is an immersive experience that involves several hundred researchers from five Countries with the aim of enhancing the dialogue between citizens and science, to actively participate in the most relevant social challenges of the present and the future, to raise awareness of the profession of researcher and encourage scientific careers.

Once again this year, away from the institutional framework, scientists from all disciplines were invited to present their work in a fun, relaxed and innovative way, in a sometimes unusual setting: scientific cafés and talks, exhibitions, prototypes and experiments, concerts, performances. This year in Pau, in particular, the Château de Pau and the Château d'Abbadia opened their doors and prestigious rooms to the public and researchers.

The 6 topics that drove the 2023 edition were as follows:

- Adaptation to climate change
- Research for human health
- Climate-neutral and smart cities
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
- Soil health and food
- Cultural heritage

The large and active audience once again demonstrated the importance of enhancing the dialogue between citizens, policy makers and scientists, and organising events to identify solutions on specific challenges connected to the territories. In response to this, and following on from the success of the 2023 edition of UNIGHT, UNITA Alliance will continue its efforts to make visible the concrete benefits and impacts that a higher participation of people to the research process can bring.

Overcoming preconceived ideas in society is a major challenge, and the events organized around UNIGHT are invaluable tools for achieving this.

*Isabelle BARAILLE*  
Research Commission Vice Président - UPPA

## Cultural Heritage



### The 20th UISPP Worldwide Congress

Hundreds of archaeologists from all over the world gathered this fall in Timisoara for the most prestigious event dedicated to prehistoric and protohistoric sciences. The 20th edition of the UISPP World Congress was hosted by the West University of Timișoara between September 5 and 9, 2023. The Congress was held under the auspices of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP), a global body bringing together all branches of prehistoric and early historic archaeology, with a tradition established in 1931.

For more information visit  
<https://uispp2023.uvt.ro/>

## Circular Economy



### Circular economy levers: are they complementary?

Fruit of collaboration between economists from the IREG laboratory and chemists from the EDYTEM laboratory, this project aims to analyze the compatibility and impacts of the various levers of the circular economy: reduce, reuse, recycle. Supported by the USMB Foundation's CLEE Chair, the research will help identify the most effective public policies for promoting the circular economy among businesses and households alike.

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## Renewable Energies



### Optimizing the operation of solar thermal plants

Solar thermal plants are a good alternative to fossil fuel thermal plants to produce heat for domestic and industrial use. However, such renewable energy systems operate in a variable and uncertain environment. Optimizing their operational strategy in real-time can thus help to adapt the operation to the current weather and heat demand, reduce the cost of heat production, and cut fossil fuel consumption. The aim of Alix Untrau's PhD was to develop such an optimization methodology.  
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## PhD student of the month



### Ionela-Amalia Bradu

Experience as a PhD student at the West University of Timisoara

Encouraged by the knowledge and results obtained during my bachelor's and master's studies, I continued my career in the scientific field through doctoral studies in the field of Chemistry at the Doctoral School of Chemistry on the topic "Controlled release of active principles". To date, my training through doctoral studies has been of a major importance for my interdisciplinary research capacity, acquiring knowledge such as: applied ethics, scientific writing and drafting and a deepening of qualitative and quantitative research methods, the use of specific equipment (FTIR, TGA, DSC, SEM, UV-VIS, RAMAN) within the research laboratories.

Also, the PhD student status gave me the opportunity and financial support to participate in renowned national and international conferences (CATCAR-31, Resita 2022, MEDICTA 2023, Porto, Portugal, JTACC 2023, Balatonfüred, Hungary).

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## Woman researcher of the month



**Emilie Planes** is an assistant professor at USMB in the [LEPMI](#) laboratory.

Specialist in the characterization of polymeric and composite materials used for energy storage and transport, her research focuses in particular on the development of high-performance, long-lasting photovoltaic devices. Her latest work focuses on how to increase the lifetime of organic photovoltaic devices and pass European lifetime standards. Part of this research is carried out in collaboration with UNIZAR.

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Photo credit: Yannick Perrin

## Highlights

### Transitions Forum (UPPA - 22-24 November 2023)

UPPA corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy focuses on three key issues: the well-being and quality of life of staff and users; reducing the university's environmental footprint; and acting as a resource center for training and research on energy, environmental and societal transitions.

Working closely with the CNRS, INRAE and Inria, the university has chosen to define its scientific identity in terms of 5 interdisciplinary missions, encompassing the research, training and innovation activities carried out on all its campuses: territories, environment, energy, ecosystem, borders.

Over three days, presentations and discussions on these interdisciplinary missions will take place in UPPA.

See the Forum program [here](#)

### Re-UNITA Autumn Entrepreneurship School

From Research to Market Thursday - 2023 November 23rd - Online

Please register at:

<https://eventos.unizar.es/106352/detail/reunita-autumn-entrepreneurship-school-2023.html>

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