

UPDATES WELCOME DEVICES AND INTERNATIONAL MOBILITIES

WELCOME PARTY: a welcome event for international students



On February 2nd, the Campus Saint Jean d’Angély was alive with the rhythm of the Welcome Party, organized by *Direction du Développement International et Europe (DDIE)* to welcome its international students. More than just a celebration, this evening was designed as an open window to the multiple resources available for students, covering international mobility, housing, scholarships, health, and leisure. Thanks to the close collaboration with a multitude of partners, including Face 06, UCARTS, Santé, UCA Sports, Agis06, Région Sud, CAF, LINK, CROUS, Ulysseus / RIGO, the International Ambassadors, ESN, and the Language Resource Center, the event offered a comprehensive overview of support services. The information booths, animated by these partners, allowed students to directly inform themselves from the experts. The atmosphere was set, with quizzes about the booths, a dining buffet rich in culinary discoveries, and karaoke sessions to end the evening beautifully. Feedback from participants was unanimous about the success of the Welcome Party, highlighting the importance of such events in the integration process. The enthusiastic participation of the students highlighted the value of the initiative, confirming the effectiveness of the collaboration between the DDIE and its partners. Ultimately, this evening was not only an occasion to celebrate the arrival of international students but also to introduce them into a welcoming and caring community, ready to support them throughout their academic and personal journey in Nice. The event marked the beginning of a promising university experience, reinforcing the commitment of the Université Côte d'Azur towards a rewarding and inclusive student experience.

ERASMUS+ GOT TALENT: event taking place on 22 March to celebrate UniCA's international talents



La The *Direction Développement International et Europe (DDIE)* is proud to invite you to a new edition of our flagship event: **Erasmus+ Got Talent**, taking place on Friday, March 22 at 6:00 PM at the Student House, located at 5 Av. François Mitterrand, 06300 Nice. This event represents the perfect opportunity to celebrate the diversity and talent of our international and Erasmus students, offering a privileged space to highlight their varied skills in a friendly and inspiring setting. Whether you are an aspiring artist or an enthusiastic spectator, join us for an exceptional evening dedicated to talent in all its forms: singing, music, dance, humor, and much more. It's a unique opportunity to shine and share your passion with a welcoming and inspiring international community. If you don't have a talent to present, don't worry!



Come to support your friends, discover inspiring performances, and enjoy an evening rich in entertainment, art, and international culture. A detailed program is available at the end of this message to give you a taste of what to expect. **Seats are limited!** Be sure to reserve your spot, whether you want to take the stage or simply attend the event, by registering now. **Registration is 100% free but mandatory.**

📌 **To participate, register here:** [Registration Form](#) . Don't miss this incredible celebration of talent and diversity. Hurry up and reserve your spot for an unforgettable night filled with surprises, laughter, and friendliness. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

ONGOING CALLS FOR PROJECTS

- Programme Horizon Europe: [Cluster 4 Digital](#): 19/03/2024; [Cluster 4 Space](#): 21/03/2024; [Cluster 5 Energy](#) et [Transport](#): 18/04/2024
- Programme INTERREG: [Interreg Next Med](#): 30/04/2024; [Interreg Marittimo](#): 29/05/2023; [Interreg Euro-MED](#): 12/06/2024

AGENDA : SAVE THE DATE



**PROJECT ASSISTANCE  
REQUEST FORM**

For projects to be carried out  
by UniCA, CNRS and OCA

Université Cote d’Azur welcomes a new fellow as part of the Marie S.-Curie Actions programme

The AbVarFq project (Abelian varieties over finite fields) was selected for funding by the MSCA programme in response to the call for Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023. The postdoctoral researcher Stefano Marseglia will deploy his research and training program of 24 months as part of the LJAD research unit. The project focuses on abelian varieties, one of the most studied objects at the intersection of number theory and algebraic geometry. Certain applications of the research could have a significant impact on the security and reliability of digital communications and therefore have a considerable impact on our society and economy.

Project CLEAR ISU, selected for funding

The project "CLEAR ISU" of Université Côte d'Azur has been selected for funding following the call for proposals "Radiofrequency and health" as part of the National Research Program on Environment-Health-Work of ANSES, for funding of €199,680.



This project led by the TLM team of LEAT and in partnership with the company ART-Fi aims to characterize people's real exposure to electromagnetic waves through simulations and measurements. This involves estimating field levels, SAR (specific absorption rate), and temperature in biological tissues. The analysis will take into account the variability of environmental parameters such as source characteristics (position/orientation of the phone or tablet, technologies used, etc.) and different morphologies (size, weight, gender, age, etc.).

LEAT has expertise in the TLM method through a parallel computing code adapted to numerical dosimetry in highly heterogeneous environments such as the human body. It will estimate field levels, SAR, and temperature in realistic human models.

The ART-MAN measurement platform developed by ART-Fi provides full access to the characteristics of the waves and signals emitted by connected devices. Thus, the project should provide a dosimetric database to help answer questions about regulatory exposure limits, the relevance of reference values, and associated evaluation methods. Particular attention will be paid to morphological and anatomical specificities and tissue nature during localized exposures as well as wave penetration in the telecom spectrum (including millimeter waves) at the level of the head such as auditory and ocular conduits.

**European project “DigItAfrica” (Erasmus+): Study visit on Digital Transformation for African partners’ universities at Université Côte d’Azur**



After a great deal of thought and preparation for a customized training program on digitalization, experts from Université Côte d'Azur were able to welcome and train delegations from Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar and Tunisia on its premises during the week of January 29th, 2024.

On the agenda of this enriching study visit, the representatives and university experts in digitization and IT from the African institutions attended and participated in over 20 hours of training and practical activities designed to present the challenges of institutional digital transformation, its application, and the steps involved in developing the digital transition in the various institutional sectors envisaged.

At the end of these training sessions, the African partners in the DigitAfrica project left equipped with tools, methodologies and the first drafts of digital transformation plans which, in a short period of time, will be formalized in each of the member universities, marking the start of digital transformation actions for a more digital, innovative and efficient approach to African university services and operations.



**Kick Off Meeting of the new Erasmus+ CBHE project “UNICATION” in Cambodia**



From February 19th to 21st was held in Phnom Penh (Cambodia), the first meeting of the UNICATION Project, gathering the representatives of each participating university from Cambodia, Philippines, Portugal, Hungary and France.

UNICATION is a very inspiring and consistent two years project that will support the south-east Asian HEIs in the development and strengthening of their internationalization and communication capacities to boost their active engagement and participation in local, regional and international collaborations with private, public and civil actors. This launching meeting has therefore allowed to lay the

foundations of the project missions and tasks, and to officially meet with the university representatives of this new Erasmus+ partnership.

On this occasion, the Cambodian Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, his Excellency Hang Chuon Naron, the EU delegate to Cambodia, his Excellency Igor Driesmans, and the Philippine Ambassador to Cambodia, her Excellency Mrs. Maria Amelita C. Aquino honored us with their presence, giving to the launch of this project a high media coverage.



**NEEMA CBHE Project: first virtual meeting held for food and nutritional resilience in West African region**

The kick off meeting of NEEMA project took place last 22nd February with the objective to set up the working teams and the action plan. This meeting was organized online and a physical one will take place in Dakar shortly.

NEEMA is a highly ambitious project which aims to build the capacity of eight higher education establishments in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal in the field of food and nutrition. The main objective is to alleviate food and nutrition insecurity in Africa, particularly for vulnerable populations in the region. To achieve this, the project plans to develop a new, adapted curriculum on food and nutrition resilience; a pilot model of social innovation in these sectors; and the creation of a regional training and research network on the challenges of food and nutrition resilience in the West Africa and Sahel region.

This project is funded by the Erasmus+ program (Capacity Building in Higher Education), and will end in January 2027.

**Université Côte d'Azur contributes to EU project on early detection of Alzheimer's disease**

Memory lapses, orientation problems, and language difficulties are signs of the onset of Alzheimer's dementia (AD). While incurable its progression can be slowed down with medication and supportive measures. A European doctoral research and training project, entitled CombiDiag (Combined Early Diagnosis of Dementia), was launched to detect AD at an early stage, develop prevention strategies, and discover new drugs. The University Medicine Rostock has taken over the consortium leadership under the direction of Prof. Dr. Stefan Teipel, for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie doctoral network funded by the European Commission, which officially started on 1st of February, 2023 until the 31st of January, 2027.

Ten young scientists from different countries have been selected to conduct joint research at locations in Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, Spain, and the UK. They will develop an AI- and data-supported diagnostic protocol to identify early stages of Alzheimer's. The program will establish a comprehensive network and launch a study to collect multiple biomarkers, including body fluid markers and digital markers for language, motor function, and sleep.

Université Cote d'Azur, through the CoBTek lab, has recruited a fellow since September 2023 and for the following 3 years will concentrate on validating cognitive and behavioral biomarkers in prodromal AD. The researcher's primary goal is to compare existing gold-standard biomarkers with digital patient-generated speech biomarkers for early-stage AD patients.

The upcoming researchers will undergo a comprehensive three-year interdisciplinary training program. This includes local and network-wide courses, events, summer schools, and active engagement with consortium partners.

**UPDATES ULYSSEUS**

**The Kick-Off of Phase II of the Ulysseus project in Montenegro: a strong commitment from Université Côte d'Azur in co-building a European university**



On December 13 and 14, the University of Montenegro hosted the kick-off meeting for the second phase of the Ulysseus project in Podgorica. The event brought together over 100 representatives from member universities of the Ulysseus Alliance, including Université Côte d'Azur, alongside the Universities of Seville (Spain), Genoa (Italy), the Technical University of Košice (Slovakia), MCI | The Entrepreneurial School (Innsbruck), Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences (Helsinki), and two new members, the University of Münster (Germany) and the University of Montenegro.

Under the leadership of its president, Professor Jeanick Brisswalter, Université Côte d'Azur facilitated various discussions, including the strategy for developing Ulysseus Innovation Hubs, coordinating responses to European projects, and digital

platforms. This kick-off meeting facilitated the integration of the two new universities and reaffirmed the goal of creating an inclusive European university, centered on the individual, for future citizenship.

### Fruitful meeting at Ulysseus phase II Kick-off Meeting: strengthening Franco-Montenegrin relations



At the kick-off meeting of Phase II of the European Ulysseus Alliance in Montenegro, a meeting took place in Podgorica between Her Excellency Madame the Ambassador of France, Mrs. Anne-Marie Maskay, and the delegation from Université Côte d'Azur, led by Professor Jeanick Brisswalter.

The French Embassy reaffirmed its support, on the one hand, for the development of the Balkan Institute of Science and Innovation (BISI), a joint initiative of the University of Montenegro and Université Côte d'Azur, and on the other hand, for the deployment of an Ulysseus Innovation Hub focusing on 'cybersecurity.' This theme resonates with the regional cybersecurity center for the Balkans located at the University of Montenegro, supported by France and Slovenia under the auspices of the European Union.

Furthermore, her Excellency Madame the Ambassador of France notably emphasized the importance, for Montenegro, of developing themes related to marine sciences and global health. Université Côte d'Azur expressed its desire to participate in the dynamic future projects in these domains, particularly through BISI and Ulysseus.

### Academic Triumph in the Ulysseus Alliance: Martina Pastorino, Winner of the Mikio Takagi Award



Martina Pastorino, a PhD student within the Ulysseus Alliance and affiliated with Ulysseus partner universities, INRIA - Université Côte d'Azur (UniCA) and the University of Genoa, has clinched the first prize for the best student paper at the prestigious International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARRS'21), earning her the Mikio Takagi Student Prize in the same year.

Her paper, titled "[Semantic segmentation of remote sensing images combining hierarchical probabilistic graphical models and deep convolutional neural networks](#)" showcased innovation, methodological rigor, and a profound understanding of high-resolution remote sensing image semantic segmentation.

Martina Pastorino successfully defended her thesis at the University of Genoa on December 12, 2023, under the supervision of Ulysseus Alliance professors Josiane Zerubia and Gabriele Moser, securing an "excellent" rating with congratulations from the Italian jury (cum laude). In addition to this recognition, she received three outstanding support letters for the UniCA Prize, drafted by the jury president and the two rapporteurs.

### Ulysseus guiding scholars: the committed journeys of a student between COP 28 and the Student Energy Summit



Wael Ben Khaled, doctoral student in economics at Université Côte d'Azur and member of the DESPEG doctoral school, recently participated in the COP 28. This experience, made possible thanks to the support of the Ulysseus alliance, offered a significant immersion in global climate negotiations, with privileged access to the 'Blue Zone', reserved for official delegations. As a researcher, he was able to closely observe the dynamics and deliberations that influence climate policies.

His participation in high-level meetings, specialized workshops and networking sessions within the Blue Zone has strengthened his international network and enriched his understanding of the issues related to his research. Additionally, as a beneficiary of Ulysseus' financial support, his research work has been deeply influenced by engagements and debates around energy transition, climate finance and adaptation. This involvement underlines the positive impact of the Ulysseus alliance in the advancement of its work beyond the academic framework.

Alongside his commitment to COP 28, Wael Ben Khaled also had the opportunity to participate in the “Student Energy Summit” in Abu Dhabi, a selective conference bringing together students from around the world who are passionate about energy issues. His selection from 4,700 applications and the funding awarded to cover his accommodation costs demonstrate his exceptional contribution to this prestigious summit, thus strengthening his international network and his recognition as a committed researcher.

## UPDATES ATTRACTIVITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Come along to the "[COP28: Bilan et Décryptage](#)" event on March 14 at 6pm at the Grand Château de Valrose theater!



Université Côte d'Azur delegation to COP28 will be taking stock of its contribution to this global conference and deciphering the outcome of the negotiations. We can also count on the presence of IPCC scientists, as well as the exceptional participation of Sophie D'Amours, Rector of Université Laval, and François Gélinau, Vice-Rector for International Affairs and Sustainable Development.

The discussions will be followed by a cocktail reception and a concert by Polytech Nice students. In the meantime, enter our [photo and drawing contest!](#)

For logistical reasons, [registration](#) is mandatory.

### Sustainable Global Leadership and Citizenship - a novel blended international experience



In collaboration with UniCA’s Engagement Center, DDIE has recently launched a novel blended international experience that promotes global engagement through an inter-university partnership with North Carolina State University (NCSU), the USA. The module is coordinated by Dr Natalia Timus, project manager of International Learning Experiences at DDIE, UniCA and Dr Seth Murray, Director of International Studies and Interdisciplinary Programs, and Dr Debbie Acker, Director of Shelton Leadership Center, NCSU.

The Sustainable Global Leadership and Citizenship Certificate adopts a flexible approach to transnational joint education provision, overcoming administrative barriers at national and institutional levels. The three months module combines a collaborative online international learning (COIL) part in the beginning, followed by a two-week face-to-face intensive training. Sustainability and community-based learning are at the core of this immersive joint learning. Sustainable Development Goals provide an interdisciplinary framework and a pedagogical tool for tackling global pressing issues through challenge-based learning and engaging students with local stakeholders from Côte d’Azur. A two-week intensive training is being hosted by UniCA between February 26 and March 8, 2024. Ten UniCA MSc IDEX students from BOOST, MARRES and Smart Cities programs, together with 16 NCSU students, are working together with their educators and local stakeholders to increase awareness of and solve local and global sustainability challenges.