

Research Report 2025



Freie Universität Bozen
Libera Università di Bolzano
Università Lìedia de Bulsan



Publisher

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Preface

The 2025 Research Report reflects a year of continued growth for research at unibz, marked by strong third-party funding, new projects and deeper international cooperation. In 2025, unibz secured €20.1 million in third-party funding with 129 new projects. Over the period 2022–2025, the university attracted €66.7 million through 527 projects. These results are the outcome of the commitment of unibz researchers and of an institutional strategy aimed at strengthen-



Alex Weissensteiner · Rector

ing research capacity, international cooperation and competitive funding. They have been supported by continued investment in research support services, grant writing training, proposal development. At the same time, they show the growing recognition of unibz as a trusted research partner for public institutions, European programmes, companies and international collaborators.

This development builds on the distinctive profile of our university: multilingual, interdisciplinary and rooted in South Tyrol and the Alpine region, while increasingly connected to Euro-

pean research networks. Rather than standing as separate disciplinary activities, the projects contribute to shared priorities: inclusive and resilient societies, digitalisation and intelligent systems, sustainability and circular innovation, society, inclusion and well-being, and territory-based applied research. Together, they show how unibz connects scientific excellence with regional relevance, European cooperation and societal impact — from fundamental research to applied innovation, and from local challenges to international partnerships.

A relevant aspect of 2025 was the consolidation of unibz's role within European Partnerships in Horizon Europe. They bring together the European Commission, Member States, regions, public institutions, research organisations and stakeholders around shared strategic priorities. With the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano acting as a co-funding organisation, unibz contributes to initiatives that address some of the most urgent challenges of our time, from biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration to agroecological transition and sustainable food systems. Through Biodiversa+, the Agroecology Partnership and the European Partnership Sustainable Future of Food Systems, the university strengthens its capacity to connect research, policy and territorial development.

This European engagement is also reflected in unibz's participation in networks such as ERIAFF, EUPHRESCO, ERRIN,



Ulrike Tappeiner · President (2018–2026)

EIT Food and the Bioeconomy Industry Consortium. These networks allow our researchers to contribute to European discussions on agriculture, food, forestry, plant health, bioeconomy and innovation, while bringing the experience and needs of South Tyrol into wider research agendas. In this sense, unibz acts as a bridge: close to its territory, but open to international cooperation.

Another important development was unibz's participation in the SUNRISE Alliance, the European University Alliance that brings together nine small and medium-sized universities located in non-metropolitan regions. With a total budget of €14 million, including €1.8 million for unibz, SUNRISE strengthens cooperation in teaching, mobility, joint research, sustainability and knowledge transfer. The Alliance gives new visibility to universities that are deeply rooted in their regions and shows how innovation and sustainability can be shaped also outside large metropolitan centres. The ability to attract and support international research talent is

another important part of this development. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions remain among the most prestigious European instruments for researcher mobility, interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge transfer. Over the past three years, unibz has obtained funding for three MSCA projects and received twelve Seals of Excellence. Since 2020, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano has supported sixteen of these excellent projects, including projects developed at unibz and projects transferred from other institutions. This support helps turn high-quality international proposals into concrete research opportunities and strengthens the university as an attractive environment for researchers.



Federico Giudiceandrea · President (2026 – present)

The projects highlighted in this report provide concrete examples of how these strategic priorities, networks and funding instruments translate into research with scientific and societal relevance. Among them, CoolFarm-Lab, NETTLE, MAP-Rezia, Health-Ferm and BIOPAS address agro-ecological transition, sustainable food innovation, alpine plant resources and biodiversity management. AI4SWEng, CyclOps and MAIPM contribute to advanced digital systems, artificial intelligence and data management. REWAPE applies artificial intelligence to reduce food waste in hospitality, while Deep

Map, Inhabited Dissonance and GuPaGras show how the humanities, social sciences, anthropology and design help us understand territories, memory, ecological change and social transformation.

The growing visibility of unibz research is also evident in its scientific output. In 2025, citations of peer-reviewed publications with unibz affiliation reached 46,081 in Scopus, while the share of open access publications increased to 56.7%. These results point to a research community that is increasingly recognised internationally and committed to making knowledge accessible beyond disciplinary and institutional boundaries.

Recognition also came on the national and international stage. The Faculty of Economics and Management ranked third in Italy in the Times Higher Education Ranking by Subject, standing out for research quality and international outlook. Marco Montali was appointed EurAI Fellow 2025 for his pioneering work at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and information systems engineering. Awards to Diletta Mauri, Paul Videsott, Thomas Zanon, Elisabeth Gsottbauer and Salvatore Monaco further testify to the breadth of excellence at unibz, from social work and language studies to mountain agriculture, environmental economics and sustainability research.

Research at unibz also means responsibility towards society. In 2025, Third Mission activities strengthened the dialogue between the university and its communities. The Unicity workshop deepened cooperation with the Municipality of Bolzano on urban development; the unibz STEM School brought secondary school students closer to science and technology; and Sci-

ence Live 2025 welcomed more than 500 visitors to 28 interactive stations. Initiatives such as Forever Young, “Mettiamoci al sicuro!”, 3(En)action, the agreement to strengthen health research and the SUSTAIN-RW co-operation project in Rwanda show how research, education and public engagement can create impact locally and internationally.



Tanja Mimmo · Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation

These achievements are possible thanks to the commitment, creativity and perseverance of the entire unibz community: professors, researchers, research assistants, PhD students, and technical and administrative staff. We are deeply grateful to them, and to our public and private partners, for their dedication, trust and collaboration. Together, these achievements demonstrate how research excellence, societal engagement and international cooperation are mutually reinforcing dimensions of unibz's strategic development. They also confirm the university's capacity to combine scientific ambition with regional relevance contributing to a more sustainable, inclusive and innovative future.

Highlights

1.

Baldry Luberti Award to Diletta Mauri

Diletta Mauri, researcher at the Competence Centre for Social Work, Social Pedagogy and Social Policy, received the Baldry Luberti Award for a study focused on interrupting the intergenerational transmission of abuse and violence. Her thesis examines the phenomenon from the perspective of a group still under-represented in research: adults who experienced foster care or residential care during childhood and are now parents (the so-called care leavers). Using an interdisciplinary approach, the study values their experiences to better understand the factors that foster resilience and change. The research provides a rele-

vant contribution to both scientific research and practice offering evidence-based insights to support policies and interventions aimed at helping families and services prevent abuse and violence.

2.

unibz Joins the European SUNRISE Alliance

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano has officially joined the SUNRISE European Alliance (Smaller (Strategic) Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution), a transnational network funded by the European Union that brings together nine small universities located in non-metropolitan regions. SUNRISE aims to strengthen the role of territori-

ally rooted universities as drivers of innovation, sustainability and regional development, with a focus on STEAM disciplines. Through international cooperation, the Alliance promotes joint degrees, mobility programmes, collaborative research and closer dialogue with businesses and local communities, contributing to the development of a European university model attentive to local needs and global challenges. The SUNRISE Alliance has a total budget of €14 million, of which €1.8 million is allocated to the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano.

- 01 — Diletta Mauri received the Baldry Luberti Award in Florence. Photo: Diletta Mauri
02 — President Prof. Ulrike Tappeiner and Rector Prof. Alex Weissensteiner together with the rectors of the partner universities at the opening ceremony of the SUNRISE Alliance. Photo: Ilmenau University

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3.

Faculty of Economics Ranks Third in Italy in THE Subject Ranking

The Faculty of Economics of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano achieved an excellent result in the Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking by Subject, ranking third in Italy and in the 151–175 range worldwide among nearly one thousand evaluated universities. The faculty stands out in particular for Research Quality and International Outlook (international students, staff and research), where it ranks first nationally. Strong results also emerge in the subcategories of Accounting and Finance, Business and Management, and Economics and Econometrics. The rankings of the other unibz faculties are also positive, which

confirm the university's strength in terms of research and international outlook. The ranking results reflect the university's continued commitment to academic excellence, innovation and a strong international dimension in teaching and research.

4.

Sustainability Research Award to unibz

Elisabeth Gsottbauer, Professor of Environmental Economics and Director of the Competence Centre for Sustainability at unibz, and sociologist Salvatore Monaco, former researcher at our university, received the 2024 Sustainability Research Award, funded by Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Bolzano and Cassa di Risparmio di Bolzano.

Prof. Gsottbauer's study shows how simple changes in the presentation of menus in food delivery apps can significantly reduce meal-related CO₂ emissions, with additional health benefits. Salvatore Monaco was awarded for a volume analysing the relationship between social justice and environmental policies, highlighting how genuine sustainability strongly depends on adapting solutions to local contexts. Together, the two projects demonstrate unibz's contribution to the development of concrete and inclusive approaches to sustainability.

03 — The Bozen-Bolzano city-centre campus.
Photo: unibz

04 — Prof. Elisabeth Gsottbauer and Salvatore Monaco with the award. Photo: unibz

03



04



Highlights

5.

Marco Montali appointed EurAI Fellow 2025

Marco Montali, Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Vice-Dean for Studies at the Faculty of Engineering of unibz, has been appointed EurAI Fellow 2025, one of the most prestigious European honours in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The title, awarded by the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI), is reserved for no more than 3% of AI researchers in Europe and recognises outstanding scientific contributions. The award was granted for Montali's pioneering work at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and information systems engineering, with significant theoretical and applied impact, particu-

larly in the analysis and automation of business processes. This appointment further strengthens unibz's international standing in digital innovation and advanced AI applications.

6.

National Award for a Ladin Literary Dictionary

Paul Videsott, Professor of Romance Philology at the Faculty of Education of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, received the first prize in the Dictionaries category of the Tullio De Mauro Award in the Dictionaries category of the national competition "Salva la tua lingua locale" (Save your local language) for the volume *Vocabolar dl ladin leterar 1*. The work goes beyond a traditional

dictionary, offering a broad and scientifically rigorous documentation of literary Ladin. The first volume covers the entire Ladin lexicon attested in literature from its origins up to 1879, including variants from all five Ladin valleys, with Italian and German translations, etymological analyses and examples drawn from literary texts. A second volume, already completed, will extend the documentation up to 1975. The project highlights the richness of the Ladin language and represents an important resource for both the Ladin community and linguistic research.

05 — Prof. Marco Montali. Photo: unibz
06 — Prof. Paul Videsott with "Vocabolar dl ladin leterar 1". Photo: Pablo Palfrader | La Usc di Ladins

05



06



7.

Award for Research on Alpine Livestock Farming

Thomas Zanon, researcher and lecturer in Livestock Farming at the Faculty of Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences of unibz, received the Mountain Agriculture Award from the Accademia dei Georgofili for a study on the microbiological quality of alpine dairy systems. The award, funded by the Raiffeisenverband Südtirol, recognises research on mountain agriculture carried out by researchers under the age of 30. The study analyses how different alpine dairy production systems influence the microbiological composition of cow's milk, considering factors such as feeding practices, breeds and farming systems. The results show that

seasonality and feed management have a stronger impact on milk quality than other factors. The research provides valuable insights into how to improve the resilience and sustainability of alpine livestock farming, strengthening a sector that is central to mountain regions.

8.

unibz in the Galápagos Islands Studying Soil Ecosystems

The Micro-Darwin project investigates soil biodiversity in the Galápagos Islands, one of the world's most unique and fragile ecosystems. Coordinated by Luigimaria Borruso, Professor at the Faculty of Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences of unibz, the initiative analyses the biological and chemical proper-

ties of soils in extreme environments such as volcanic fumaroles and peatlands, to understand how soil influences ecosystem resilience and plant adaptation to climate change. Micro-Darwin integrates scientific research, design and environmental education, translating research results into educational tools to raise awareness among local communities and younger generations about the importance of soil and microorganisms. Developed in collaboration with the Charles Darwin Foundation, the project strengthens dialogue between science, society and environmental conservation, contributing to the sustainable protection of the Galápagos.

- 07 — The ceremony for the award, funded by Raiffeisenverband Südtirol. From left: Alberich Hofer, Joachim Reinalter, Luis Walcher, award winner Thomas Zanon, Giuliano Mosca, Robert Zampieri, Florian Pedron. Photo: Raiffeisenverband Südtirol
- 08 — Prof. Luigimaria Borruso and researcher Maria Landolfi collecting samples on the volcano slope. Photo: unibz

07

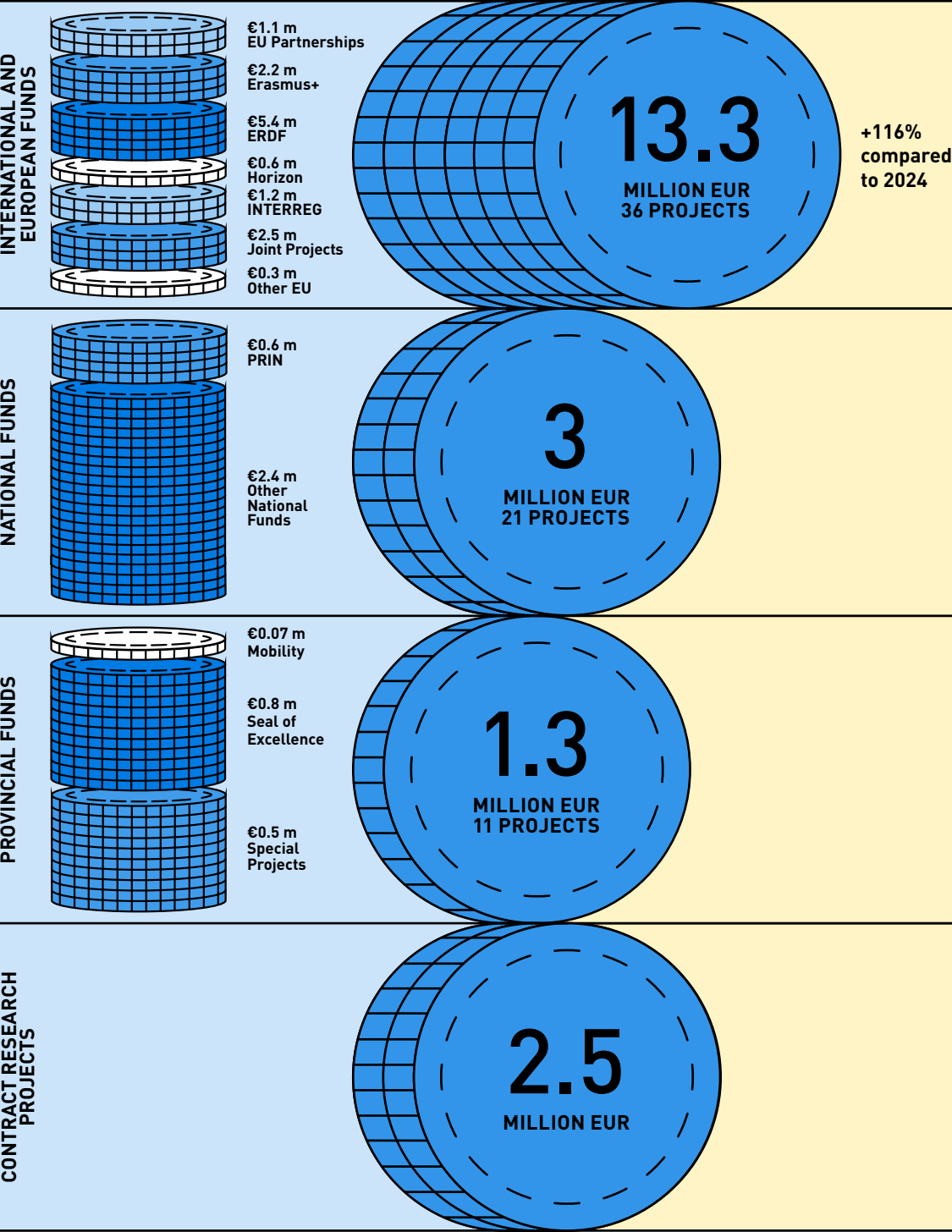


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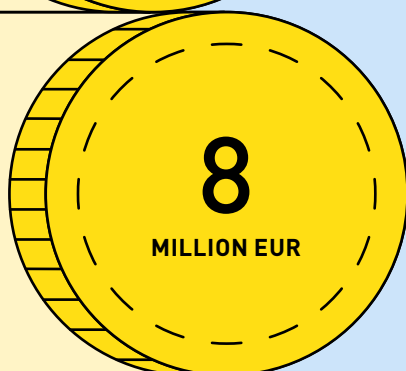
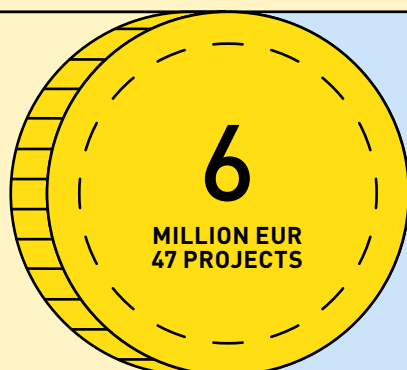
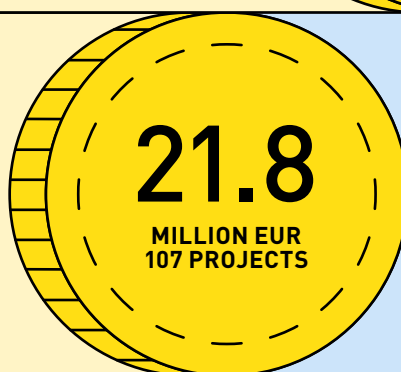
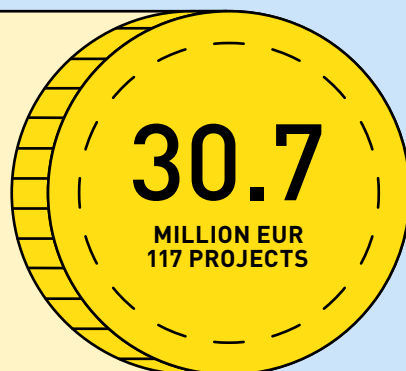
Figures on Research Third-Party Funds 2025

20.1 million EUR, 129 new projects, +40% compared to 2024



Third-Party Funds 2022–2025

66.5 million EUR in four years and 527 projects



International and European funding drives exceptional growth

Third-party funding reached 20.1 million euros in 2025, representing a ~40% increase compared to 2024. The most significant contribution came from international and EU programmes, with funding increasing by 116% compared to 2024. This remarkable growth was driven by the strong performance of ERDF, Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Interreg and Joint Projects as well as EU Partnerships, further expanding the university's participation in European research networks.

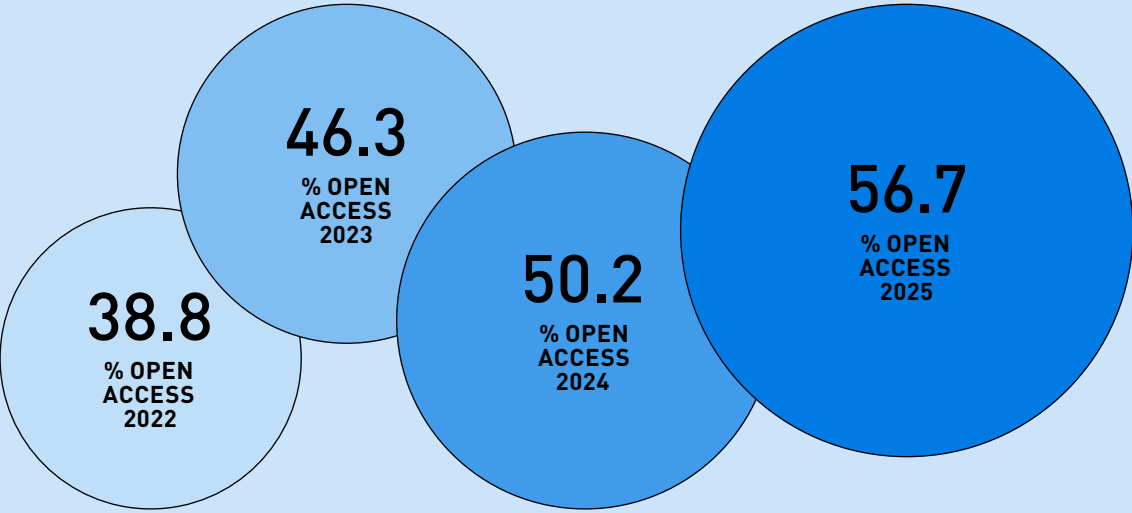
National funding remained stable at a solid level, while provincial funding continued to support excellence initiatives, mobility schemes and strategic projects.

Contract research also maintained a strong performance, reflecting the confidence of companies and institutions in the university's expertise and capacity to generate impact for the region and beyond.

Figures on Research Publications and Citations

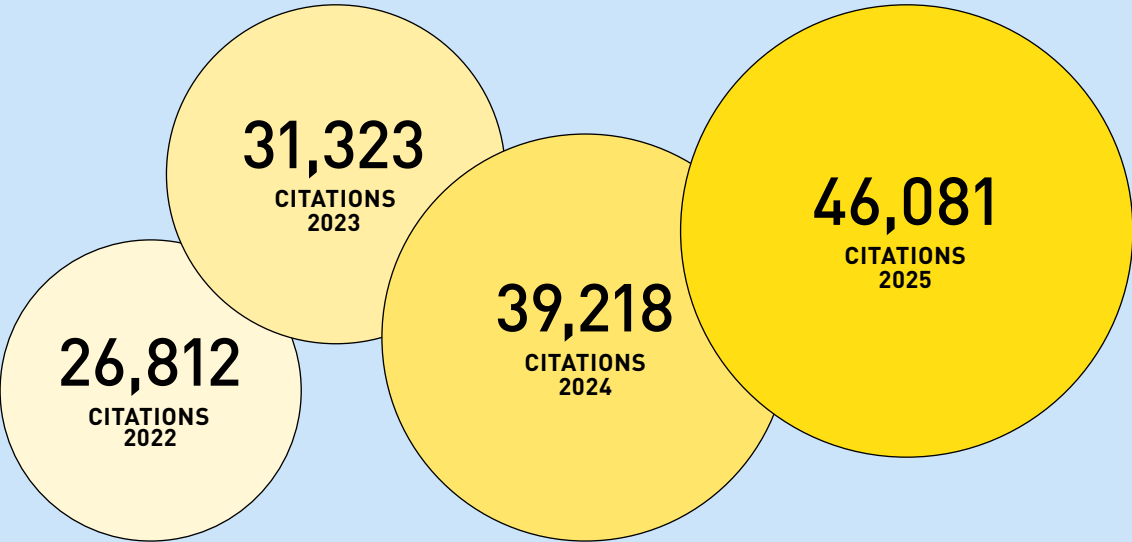
unibz Open Access Publications 2022–25

Percentage of peer-reviewed publications with unibz affiliation published as Open Access, by publication year (Source: Scopus).



unibz Citations in Scopus 2022–25

Peer-reviewed publications from authors with unibz affiliation by citation year (Source: Scopus).



Third Mission and Social Impact

1.

University and City: A Workshop for Shared Urban Development

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano and the Municipality of Bolzano are strengthening their strategic cooperation through a workshop dedicated to the university-city relationship. The initiative is part of the Unicity research project, which explores new forms of collaboration between universities and local administrations within a renewed five-year agreement aimed at creating synergies between the university's expertise and the city's development needs. The workshop brought together academics, institutional representatives and public administrators to discuss key urban challenges,

including housing, mobility, civic participation and the management of common goods. Through interdisciplinary dialogue and the exchange of best practices, the meeting highlighted opportunities and challenges in the strategic collaboration between the university and the city.

2.

unibz STEM School: Scientific Pathways for Secondary School Students

With the unibz STEM School, the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano has strengthened its commitment to guidance and outreach in science and technology. Developed in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering, the Orientation Service and

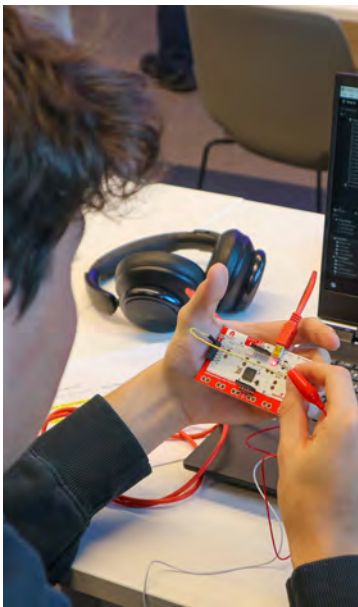
the local school authorities, the initiative offered secondary school students a week of lectures and hands-on activities on innovative STEM topics. Participants explored fields such as computer engineering, robotics, smart construction and Industry 4.0, engaging directly with university research and teaching. The programme involved several schools from the region and supported students in making more informed choices about their future studies, bringing them closer to the opportunities offered by research and innovation.

01 — The city of Bozen-Bolzano. Photo: iStock
02 — One of the activities offered by the Computer Science degree programme as part of the unibz STEM School initiative. Photo: unibz

01



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3.

unibz Brings Classical Music to Don Bosco Retirement Home

Through the project Forever Young, the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano combined culture, research and social engagement by bringing classical and opera music to Don Bosco retirement home in Bolzano. Conceived by Prof. Paolo Somigli in collaboration with the local Social Services Agency, the initiative involved the residents of the retirement home in a series of guided and participatory listening sessions. Each meeting included an introduction to selected musical works, followed by active moments such as collective singing, aimed at stimulating cognitive abilities and enhancing well-being

among elderly people. Beyond its cultural and social dimension, the project also has a scientific value: the findings have been collected in a publication (Formazione musicale e terza età. La musica classica fra ascolto e canto in RSA – Musical training and the elderly. Classical music between listening and singing in nursing homes, edited by Paolo Somigli, Rome, Aracne, TN) exploring the role of music in active ageing and the preservation of cognitive functions.

4.

Science Live 2025: Research Meets the Public

With Science Live – Get Curious! the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano opened the doors of its central campus to more than 500

visitors, transforming the university into a vibrant space for science outreach. Held biennially and organised this year in collaboration with the Festival Le Mille e una Scienza, the event engaged families, children, teenagers and adults in an evening dedicated to discovering research and innovation. Visitors explored 28 interactive stations across seven “Gardens of Knowledge”, guided by researchers and professors. Through experiments and hands-on activities, Science Live showcased how university research connects with everyday life and future challenges, from engineering and STEM fields to social sciences and design. The initiative further strengthened the role of unibz as a bridge between

03 — Professor Paolo Somigli inaugurates the series of meetings at Don Bosco nursing home. Photo: unibz

04 — One of the activities offered during the event. Photo: unibz

03



04



research and the local community, promoting an open and participatory scientific culture.

5.

“Mettiamoci al sicuro!”: An Event on Workplace Safety

“Mettiamoci al sicuro!” (Let’s be safe, TN) promotes an innovative approach to raising awareness about workplace safety by combining research, design and education. Organised by the Competence Centre for Sustainability and the Faculty of Design and Art of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano in collaboration with the Regolino Foundation of Empoli, the event brought together international experts, institutions, companies and citizens in an interdisciplinary

nary dialogue on accident prevention, with a focus on the construction sector. The conference explored new communication strategies to foster a culture of prevention and launched the Observatory on Sustainability and Safety Practices in Construction, managed by unibz, which will provide scientific support and assess the impact of awareness activities. A second day of workshops engaged children and families, highlighting the educational role of younger generations in promoting safe behaviours.

6.

3(En)action: Art as a Shared Educational Experience

With the project 3(En)action, the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

and the Mart, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto, strengthened a training collaboration aimed at future primary school teachers. The initiative involved fifth-year students in Primary Education in the co-design of aesthetic learning pathways for primary school classes. The project offered trainees a territory-based learning experience open to experimentation, highlighting the museum as an educational space and a meeting point between university, schools and families. Through creative workshops and participatory activities, children, teachers and parents engaged in experiences that stimulate the body, emotions and critical thinking, promoting art as a tool for growth, connection and active participation.

05 — The conference poster. Photo: unibz
06 — A museum educator with a child in the galleries of MART. Photo: 3(En)action

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7.

Agreement with the Catholic University to Strengthen Health Research

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano has signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Bolzano to enhance health research in collaboration with the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano and other regional scientific partners. The agreement aims to strengthen research, prevention and education in the healthcare sector, consolidating South Tyrol as a centre of excellence in the field. The memorandum establishes a structured cooperation to define shared priorities and develop joint projects in prevention, biomedicine, nutri-

tion, artificial intelligence and medical technology. It also foresees the creation of a centre of excellence for health research at NOI Techpark in Bolzano. Through this initiative, unibz reinforces its role within the research system and contributes to innovation and improved quality of care for the region.

8.

International Cooperation: unibz Launches a Project in Rwanda

SUSTAIN-RW is the first international cooperation project of the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano. Developed in partnership with the NGO Movimento Lotta Fame nel Mondo, the initiative aims to improve food security in the Gicumbi district of Rwanda

through sustainable agriculture, irrigation and responsible water management. The project includes the rehabilitation of an existing dam to support irrigation, alongside training activities for local technical and healthcare staff. In addition to infrastructure measures, SUSTAIN-RW promotes the transfer of expertise in agriculture, hydraulics and technology, integrating digital solutions and artificial intelligence applications for system management. The initiative has involved professors, students and local partners, strengthening unibz's commitment to addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development.

07 — Participants in the round table during the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Photo: USP/Greta Stuefer

08 — A photograph of a previous project coordinated by Prof. Righetti, principal investigator in the Rwanda project. Photo: Maurizio Righetti

07



08



Faculty of Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences



Photo: unibz | Sophia Gatscher

KEY DATA

PEOPLE

448 Students, of whom
86 PhD Students
27 Tenured Professors
21 Researchers
26 Research Assistants
8 Technical Staff
14 Administrative Staff

NETTLE develops the first database in the alpine cross-border region collecting the distinctive chemical characteristics (phytochemical fingerprints) of natural extracts obtained from over 30 species of alpine plants collected across different areas of the territory. The plants are subjected to both traditional and innovative extraction processes – such as the use of supercritical fluids, ultrasound

and pulsed electric fields, which are more efficient and sustainable – to analyse the bioactive properties of the extracts. Its multidisciplinary approach and the collaboration among partners from different regions make NETTLE a unique project, aimed at advancing knowledge of alpine natural resources and enhancing the value of local biodiversity.



Video: unibz | Matteo Vegetti

MAP-Rezia aims to strengthen cross-border biodiversity management in protected areas between Lombardy, the Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano and the Canton of Graubünden by promoting shared conservation practices. Cross-border environmental data are combined with studies on the relationships between wildlife, forests and grasslands, as well as with models analysing

forest dynamics in relation to climate change. By integrating satellite imagery and field observations, MAP-Rezia develops indicators to monitor ecosystems, assess the impact of ungulates and quantify future ecosystem services. The project also includes training and outreach activities as well as the exchange of best practices, such as the creation of a cross-border biodiversity trail.



Camera trap image of an Alpine ibex (Capra ibex) in one of the MAP-Rezia study areas (Swiss National Park). Photo: MAP-Rezia

NETTLE – Cross-border Cooperation for the Valori-sation of Alpine Plants as Sources of Bioactive Compounds

INFO

DURATION
02/2024 – 01/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€757,700.40 (unibz €387,000.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU project – Interreg I-A

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Università degli Studi di Udine, Fachhochschule Salzburg

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Giovanna Ferrentino (PI), Matteo Scampicchio (co-PI), Maria Concetta Tenuta, Stefan Zerbe

WEBSITE
sites.google.com/view/nettle-en

Interreg Italia – Österreich  Co-funded by the European Union

NETTLE

MAP-Rezia – Biodiversity Monitoring in the Protected Areas of Rhaetia

INFO

DURATION
01/2025 – 06/2027

PROJECT FUNDING
€961,895.00 (unibz €309,540.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU project – Interreg I-CH

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio, Eurac Research, Schweizerischer Nationalpark, AVT Airborne Sensing Italia S.r.l.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Michele Torresani (PI), Roberto Tognetti, Alexander Cotrina Sanchez, Michela Perrone

Interreg  Cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea 
Italia – Svizzera | Italia – Suisse | Italien – Schweiz

MAP-Rezia

HealthFerm investigates the fermentation of innovative pulse- and cereal-based foods and its effects on health and consumer perception. Although fermented foods are generally considered beneficial, scientific evidence is still limited beyond yogurt and other dairy products. Through human studies, the project analyses how fermented foods interact with the gut microbiota and contribute to human health.

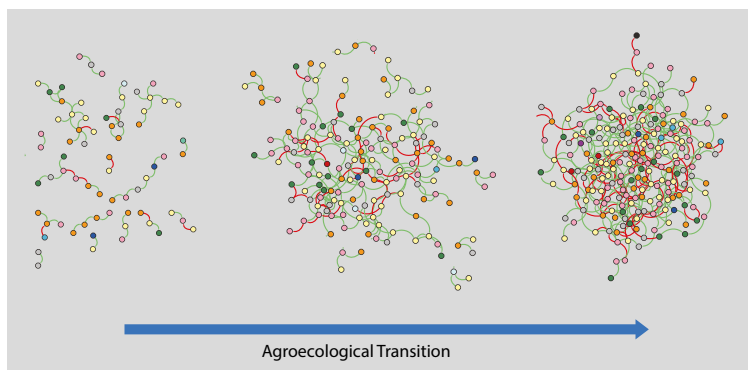
The multidisciplinary approach makes it possible to collect and characterise diverse microbial consortia, which are then used to develop new fermented plant-based foods by maximising their potential health benefits, improving nutritional quality and promoting greater consumer acceptance.



Project consortium meeting. Photo: HealthFerm

CoolFarmLab aims to develop agricultural systems based on an agroecological approach. Its main objective is to improve soil health, reduce reliance on external inputs and promote more sustainable and resilient farming practices. A key aspect is the enhancement of soil biodiversity, shaped by the interactions among microorganisms, soil fauna and plants, which are

essential for nutrient cycling, soil structure and agricultural productivity. The project is based on Living Labs, where farmers, researchers and other stakeholders test concrete solutions and share knowledge. In this way, CoolFarmLab contributes to the development of practical tools for farmers, capable of effectively integrating tradition and innovation.



Ecological network of interactions between soil organisms: the dots represent organisms; the lines represent interactions. An agroecological approach increases network connections and stability. Photo: Luigimaria Borruso

HEALTHFERM – Innovative Pulse and Cereal-based Food Fermentations for Human Health and Sustainable Diets

INFO

DURATION
09/2022 – 08/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€11,303,944.75 (unibz €550,450.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU project – Horizon Europe

PARTNER(S)
The project involves 23 partners. For the full list of participants, please visit the project's website.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Marco Gobbetti (PI), Raffaella Di Cagno (co-PI), Andrea Polo, Ali Zein Alabiden Tlais, Olga Nikoloudaki, Chiara Viretto, Anastasia Palatzidi

WEBSITE
www.healthferm.eu



CoolFarmLab – CO-creation of Pathways to Foster Agroecological Transition of Farms Driven by Living LAB Approach

INFO

DURATION
04/2025 – 03/2028

PROJECT FUNDING
€1,725,000.00 (unibz €295,000.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – EU Partnership

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Università degli Studi della Basilicata, Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro, Università del Piemonte Orientale, University of Lleida, University of León, AR & TeCS Anadolu AR-GE Technology Engineering and Consulting Co., INRAE, Water Resources Central Research Institute, Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Agri Obtentions, Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Luigimaria Borruso (PI), Tanja Mimmo (co-PI), Maria Landolfi, Oussama Bouaicha, Raphael Tizani

BIOPAS investigates tipping points (points beyond which a system changes rapidly and loses stability) in traditional pasture systems of South Tyrol. The project compares three different grazing conditions – intensive free-range, intermediate free-range, and abandoned pastures – to understand how different management regimes affect biodiversity and soil health. Across 36 study areas, researchers

assess vegetation patterns, chemico-physical and microbial soil properties, as well as soil fauna and animal movements, in order to identify key threshold values for biodiversity and soil health tipping points. The results will provide management guidelines for the sustainable use of mountain pastures and for the protection of grasslands in the Southern Alps.



BIOPAS sampling overview: plot design for vegetation and soil sampling. Photo: Ilaria Fracasso

USAGE-NG develops digital learning materials and training opportunities in smart agricultural technologies. Its objective is to provide innovative learning pathways in the field of agricultural engineering, supporting the upskilling and strengthening of competences among professionals and experts working in small and medium-sized farms. The materials developed have been

integrated into the courses of partner universities and Lifelong Learning programmes, contributing to the advancement of the European micro-credentials approach, the recognition of skills acquired outside formal education and more inclusive education, while also fostering the creation of a network of key actors in the agricultural sector.



Students attending a Lifelong Learning course held at the Laboratory of Agroforestry Innovations of unibz within the USAGE-NG project. Photo: Agroforestry Innovation Lab – unibz

BIOPAS – Tipping Points of Biodiversity and Sustainability of South Tyrol Traditional Pasture Systems

INFO

DURATION
06/2024 – 05/2027

PROJECT FUNDING
€372,964.84 (unibz €299,164.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Universität Innsbruck, Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Camilla Wellstein (PI), Luigimaria Borruso (co-PI), Thomas Zanon, Franziska Zimmermann, Ilaria Fracasso

USAGE-NG – Up-skilling Agricultural Engineering in Europe – Next Generation

INFO

DURATION
12/2022 – 11/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
€400,000.00 (unibz €120,000.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU project – Erasmus+ KA2

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Technische Universität München, Universität für Bodenkultur Wien, Enama Servizi S.r.l.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Fabrizio Mazzetto (PI), Giovanni Carabin, Andreas Mandler, Lorenzo Becce

WEBSITE
usage-ng.boku.ac.at



USAGE-NG

Faculty of Design and Art



Photo: unibz | Eleonora Lunardonì

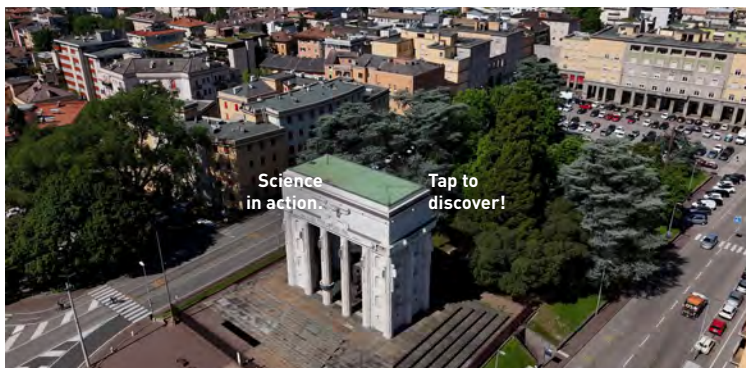
KEY DATA

PEOPLE

367 Students, of whom
16 PhD Students
21 Tenured Professors
7 Researchers
13 Research Assistants
17 Technical Staff
10 Administrative Staff

"Inhabited Dissonance. Bozen Bolzano 1922–2025" promotes a critical reflection on the architectural heritage of historical fascism in Bolzano. Through curatorial practices and participatory processes, it explores the possible repositioning of these architectures as testimonies of a dissonant past that remains alive in the shared imagination. The activities include an exhibition and two temporary artis-

tic interventions within the public space of Bolzano, a symposium at the Architecture Museum of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) dedicated to discussing the architectural legacies of dictatorial regimes, and an editorial project providing in-depth scholarly insight into the city of Bolzano, including the documentation of interventions applicable to similar contexts.



Video: unibz | Matteo Vegetti

Bordatlas2020 analyses the impact of interconnected crises – socioeconomic, humanitarian, ecological and health-related, with particular attention to the Covid-19 pandemic – on Italian border territories. The project adopts the concept of borderscape, understood as the set of spaces, relations and practices that characterise these contexts. The research examines processes of re-bordering, de-

bordering and cross-border cooperation before and after 2020, with a focus on both emergency measures and established practices. Through case studies on the borders between Italy and France, Austria and Slovenia, and the use of qualitative methods, the project investigates territorial vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies, fostering a dynamic understanding of EU borders.



"Il Confine" restaurant at the Italian-Austrian border: now closed, it stands as a silent threshold between memory, everyday life, and possible futures. Photo: Bordatlas 2020

IAN3 – Inhabited Dissonance. Bozen Bolzano 1922–2025

👁 INFO

DURATION
01/2025 – 12/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €40,000.00

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Autonomous Region of Trentino – South Tyrol – Ripartizione III

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), BAU, Lungomare, Architekturmuseum der TUM, Municipality of Bolzano

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Roberto Gigliotti (PI), Andrea di Michele (co-PI), Waltraud Kofler Engl, Gianluca Camillini, Davide T. Ferrando, Elisabetta Rattalino, Gaia Piccarolo

Bordatlas2020 – Italian Borderscapes After 2020. Mapping Unfolding, and Re-framing Border Territories in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

👁 INFO

DURATION
10/2023 – 02/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€202,424.00 (unibz €65,823.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National project – PRIN 2022

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Politecnico di Milano, Istituto di studi sui sistemi regionali federali e sulle autonomie (ISSIRFA CNR)

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Ingrid Kofler (PI), Andreas Metzner-Szigeth (co-PI)

WEBSITE
www.italianborderscapes.polimi.it



GuPaGras addresses urgent ecological challenges related to environmental changes in the Alpine region from an anthropological perspective, with a particular focus on biodiversity loss. The project links pasture management practices with the dynamics of global agribusiness. Grass is used as a “more-than-human” subject to explore how grasslands – among the most widespread biomes on

the planet – respond to changing human practices and how the different actors involved interact and mutually depend on each other. The research is based on a comparative ethnographic study across multiple sites and species, focusing on grazing practices, grasslands and feed and livestock markets in Switzerland and north-eastern Italy.



A nomadic herd makes its ascent to the Alpine pastures, crossing the Tagliamento River via the Braulins bridge. Friuli, April 2024. Photo: Stefan Festini Cucco

FUN explores the role of visual communication in shaping corporate and brand identity within a globalised market context. Focusing on Fuchs J. S.r.l., a well-known South Tyrolean cereal producer founded in 1922, the research aims to develop a comprehensive brand system that integrates international standards with a strong territorial identity. The project includes

the design of a coordinated corporate identity, encompassing visual guidelines, a website, packaging, printed materials and other visual assets. The research examines the relationship between global consistency and local relevance, as well as the role of transmedia design in territorial communication, offering new insights into corporate communication practices.



Historical image of the company. Photo: Fuchs J. S.r.l.

GuPaGras – Guardians of the Pastures – Ethnographic Explorations of Grassland Connections

INFO

DURATION
01/2023 – 12/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €195,380.00

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Joint Project – Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol

PARTNER(S)
unibz, HES-SO Valais Wallis, Frobenius-Institut, University of Neuchâtel

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Elisabeth Tauber (PI), Stefan Festini Cucco

WEBSITE
globalpastures.projects.unibz.it



FUN – Roots & Horizons: Crafting Fuchs Narratives

INFO

DURATION
02/2024 – 02/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €32,000.00

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Contract research – Fuchs J. S.r.l.

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Fuchs J. S.r.l.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Gianluca Camillini (PI), Nitzan Cohen (co-I), Maximilian Boiger, Andreas Trenkes

Faculty of Economics and Management



Photo: unibz | Sophia Gatscher

KEY DATA

PEOPLE

1,224 Students, of whom
28 PhD Students
45 Tenured Professors
22 Researchers
12 Research Assistants
22 Administrative Staff

REWAPE aims to develop an innovative technology solution based on Artificial Intelligence to minimise food waste and optimise procurement processes in small and medium-sized hospitality enterprises in Italy, where it is often challenging to effectively match supply with the actual needs of guests. By relying on historical data and patterns in guest behaviour, the solution enables more accurate

and timely forecasting of food demand. The project includes a pilot phase focused on the co-creation of the technological solution in close collaboration with hospitality businesses, primarily located in Trentino-Alto Adige and Sardinia, followed by a scale-up phase aimed at extending the solution across the entire national territory.



Video: unibz | Matteo Vegetti

STOPT analyses the “South Tyrolean Option Agreement” of 1939, which offered the German-speaking population living in Italy the possibility to emigrate to the German Empire. This choice, resulting from an agreement between Mussolini and Hitler, divided the South Tyrolean population, leaving wounds that have not fully healed to this day. The project considers the Option

as a unique case of large-scale real-world emigration choice, in which cultural identity played a central role. Through the digitisation and analysis of historical microdata related to Option applications, the research investigates the factors that influenced individual decisions, contributing to a broader understanding of migration processes and to the ongoing debate on this topic.



Photo: Südtiroler Landesarchiv/Bildarchiv OBERKOFER FRANZ (043)

REWAPE – Reduce Waste, Optimize Purchase

INFO

DURATION
12/2024 – 12/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€535,065.66 (unibz €414,830.16)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National Project – Fondo per la Repubblica Digitale

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Università degli Studi di Sassari, Piratech S.r.l.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Claudia Cozzio (PI), Tommaso Di Fonzo (co-PI), Oswin Maurer (co-PI), Massimo Morellato (co-PI), Markus Zanker (co-PI)

WEBSITE
www.fondorepubblicadigitale.it/scheda_progetto/rewape

STOPT – The Option Agreement in South Tyrol: The Economic Consequences of a Political Choice

INFO

DURATION
10/2025 – 09/2028

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €296,704.28

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Joint Project – Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol

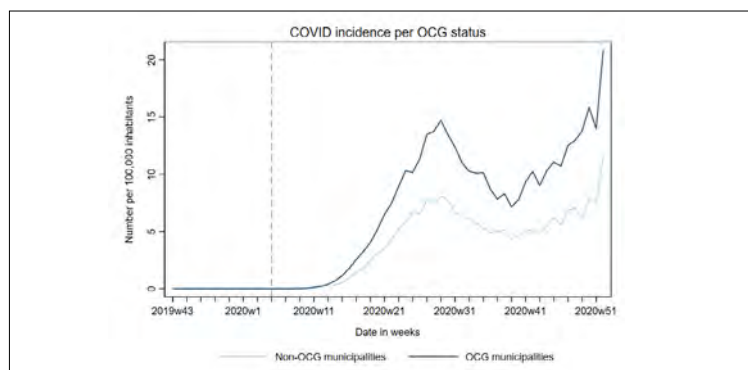
PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Steven Stillman (PI), Alexander Moradi

WEBSITE
sites.google.com/view/option-south-tyrol

CovidCrimes analyses the role of organised criminal groups in managing the COVID-19 pandemic in Mexico. During the health emergency, such groups supported or replaced public authorities in providing protection and control in many areas of the country. The research examines whether health outcomes differed in regions with a strong criminal presence. The project analyses the interactions between

state actions and those of criminal groups during the crisis, in order to understand whether these interventions strengthened their local power. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing more effective crisis management policies and for safeguarding the functioning of democratic institutions.



The graph shows the evolution of COVID-19 incidence during the first wave of the pandemic in Mexico, comparing municipalities with and without the presence of organized criminal groups (OCGs). Graph: Kerstin Perlik Umfried

FemMinImm analyses how mobility and immobility strategies influence the construction of gender roles within families and communities. The project focuses on the (im)mobility patterns of the Hungarian ethnic minority in Transcarpathia (Ukraine) to better understand how structural constraints, community-based social norms and individual emotional experiences contribute to

shaping and maintaining traditional gender roles in peripheral rural areas. FemMinImm employs a range of qualitative methods, including documentary filmmaking, to capture the complexity of evolving social dynamics. The project fosters dialogue across disciplines and actively experiments with innovative approaches to the dissemination of research results.

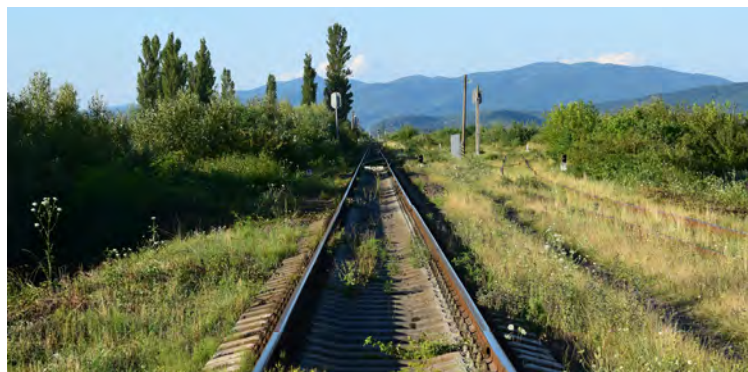


Photo: Ágnes Erőss

CovidCrimes – Criminal and State Governance in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Mexico

INFO

DURATION
09/2025 – 08/2027

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €172,750.08

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Horizon Europe MSCA PF

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Kerstin Perlik (PI), Giacomo De Luca (co-PI)

WEBSITE
cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101146212

FemMinImm – The Effect of War-Induced (Im)Mobility Strategies on the Construal of Gender Roles in Central Eastern Europe

INFO

DURATION
01/2025 – 12/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €162,270.00

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol – Seal of Excellence

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Ágnes Erőss (PI), Roberto Farneti (co-PI)



CYBERRISK analyses the factors influencing the exposure of firms and consumers to cyber risks, the economic incentives that drive firms to invest in cybersecurity and how these incentives interact with the broader context in which firms operate, particularly in relation to market structures and available digital infrastructures. The objective is to better understand the role of regulation and to design effective

policy tools that can encourage investment in cybersecurity while avoiding unintended consequences. The project also examines the impact of existing privacy regulations, contributing to the development of more balanced policies that reconcile security, innovation and the protection of users.

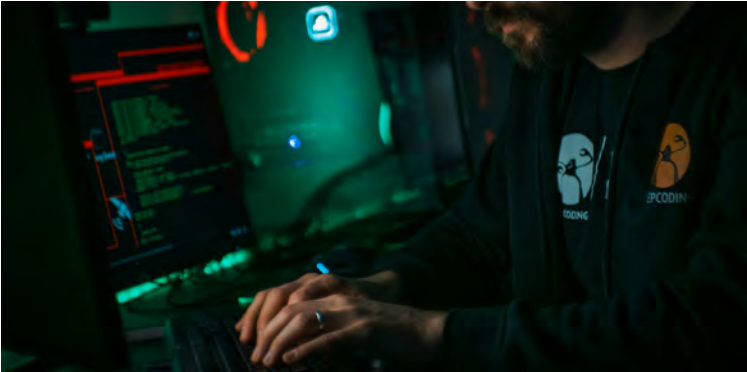


Photo: Unsplash | KeepCoding

CLIPKOS analyses the relationship between the privatisation of knowledge and Open Science in the field of clinical trials. To this end, it integrates different perspectives, including legal analysis, public policy evaluation and ethical reflection. In particular, the project examines how access to data and its use in pharmaceutical and medical research give rise to ethical risks related to

responsibility, transparency and trust, which may ultimately undermine the very usefulness of scientific research. The study further explores the potential of open access to clinical trial data as a tool to mitigate these risks and to restore fundamental guarantees related to human dignity within scientific practice and medical care.



A project conference held at unibz in June 2025, bringing together international scholars and practitioners, including Germany's former Federal Commissioner for Data Protection. Photo: unibz

CYBERRISK – Cyber Resilience: Markets, Investments and Regulation

👁️ INFO

DURATION
11/2023 – 11/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
€230,312.00 (unibz €42,238.56)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National project – PRIN 2022 PNRR

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Politecnico di Torino,
Università degli Studi di Padova,
Università degli Studi di Udine

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Alessandro Fedele (PI), Mirco Tonin (co-PI)

CLIPKOS – Clinical Trial Data Between Privatisation of Knowledge and Open Science

👁️ INFO

DURATION
09/2023 – 02/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€204,299.00 (unibz €30,200.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National Project – PRIN 2022

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Università di Trento,
Università di Pisa, Università di Torino,
Istituto di Fisica Applicata “Nello Carrara” – CNR

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Ivo De Gennaro (PI), Ralf Lüfter (co-PI),
Robert Simon

WEBSITE
zenodo.org/communities/clipkos

Faculty of Education



Photo: unibz | Eleonora Lunardonì

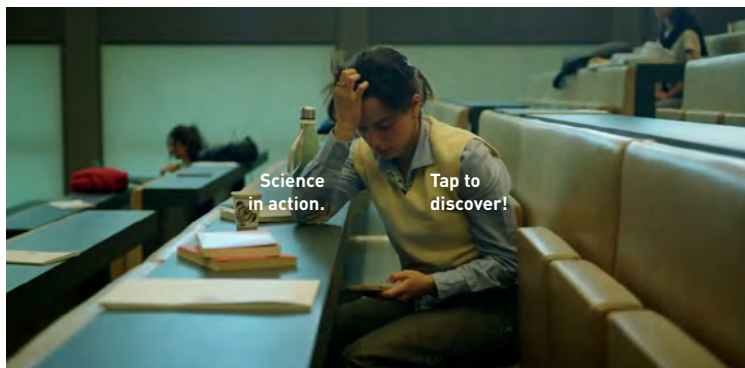
KEY DATA

PEOPLE

1,418 Students, of whom
43 PhD Students
51 Tenured Professors
32 Researchers
15 Research Assistants
20 Administrative Staff

4CH4WB promotes the well-being of the student community through a multidimensional approach that considers four key areas – interpersonal, physical, socio-economic/occupational and community-based (the I COPPE model) – to strengthen counselling services and establish anti-violence support centres. Among the activities promoted by unibz and its partner universities are mindfulness and yoga prac-

tices, coaching programmes for study and psychological well-being, and sports initiatives. The objective is to prevent addictive behaviours and gender-based violence by training academic staff and consolidating shared protocols. This synergy contributes to making universities more inclusive, safe and equitable environments, capable of fostering lasting cultural change.



Video: unibz | Matteo Vegetti

The AI2PI Teacher Academy aims to integrate a critical and informed reflection on Artificial Intelligence into educational practice. Through a design-based research methodology, the project develops and tests training interventions that are both theoretically grounded and tailored to the practical needs and real-world contexts of teaching. The result is a flexible and modular curriculum composed of

a range of learning units designed to support teachers and trainers in developing and strengthening competencies in AI. These modules are structured as micro-credentials and promote a pedagogically sound use of digital technologies, fostering a more critical understanding of their impact on teaching and learning processes.



Group photo of the consortium. Photo: HU Berlin

4CH4WB – 4 Challenges for Wellbeing

INFO

DURATION
10/2024 – 10/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
€2,500,000.00 (unibz €526,700.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National Project – Italian Ministry for Universities and Research

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Università degli studi di Foggia, Università degli studi di Verona, Università degli Studi del Molise, Università Europea di Roma, Conservatorio di Musica di Foggia, Conservatorio di Verona

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Antonella Brighi (PI), Attilio Carraro (co-PI), Demis Basso (co-PI)

WEBSITE
guide.unibz.it/it/life-on-campus/pro-ben



AI2PI Teacher Academy – From Artificial Intelligence to Pedagogical Innovation

INFO

DURATION
04/2025 – 03/2028

PROJECT FUNDING
€1,493,900.73 (unibz €193,304.49)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Erasmus+ KA2

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, University of Turku, University of Minho, Pädagogische Hochschule Tirol, Vytautas Magnus University, Umeå University, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Hermann School, Georg-Griesche-Schule, Amarante School

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Susanne Schumacher (PI), Daniele Morselli (co-PI)

WEBSITE
www.ai2pi.eu



ePhyLi strengthens competencies in physical literacy among university students in pre-service physical education and primary school teachers through the development of digital and interactive learning tools. Within the project, a range of innovative materials – including an app, a handbook, educational comics and dedicated webinar content – was developed and tested to promote active life-

styles and foster a deeper understanding of the importance of movement. The approach combines motor, cognitive, behavioural and motivational dimensions of physical activity. The results contribute to the training of future teachers and to the wider dissemination of educational practices aimed at promoting well-being and lifelong engagement in physical activity.



Tools developed during the ePhyLi project. Photo: GrantXpert Consulting

ECOSOW analyses the role of social work in processes of ecosocial transformation within the Italian context. Based on an exploratory research design, the project examines emerging practices that integrate social and ecological objectives within a transformative perspective. Through interviews, document analysis and field visits, the research investigates the contextual conditions and processes

that enable or hinder the development of ecosocial work, with particular attention to the implications for professional identity and the skills required of social workers. The results provide a critical analysis and contribute to clarifying the concept of ecosocial work, strengthening the research agenda in this field.



The research team during a meeting at the Faculty of Education in Brixen-Bressanone. Photo: ECOSOW

ePhyLi – Promoting Physical Literacy and Healthy Lifestyles Through Digital Materials for University Students

INFO

DURATION
11/2022 – 10/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
€400,000.00 (unibz €69,000.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Erasmus+ KA2

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), University of Central Lancashire Cyprus, GrantXpert Consulting, Infinity Design Labs, European Physical Education Association

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Attilio Carraro (PI), Antonino Mulè, Andrea Albergoni, Marta Duina

WEBSITE
www.ephyliproject.eu



ECOSOW – Social Work and Sustainable Local Development in Italy: Towards Ecosocial Work?

INFO

DURATION
10/2023 – 02/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€192,857.00 (unibz €67,933.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National project – PRIN 2022

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale, Università di Trento, Università Roma Tre

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Urban Nothdurfter (PI), Maria Chiara Pedroni

AGENTIVE brings together children, parents, teachers, trainers and partner organisations to enhance the promotion of multilingual literacy (development of key language competences essential for learning) which appears to be fundamental for predicting future academic success. In collaboration with partner universities, the project aims at co-developing an open online platform accessible

to schools and families, while also analysing students' knowledge and needs in order to better prepare them for multilingual education and professional practice. The project assesses training needs, develops innovative and digitalised materials together with schools, makes them available through the platform and supports continuous professional development.



Photo: Unsplash | Quilia

Deep Map creates “deep maps” in which scientific research, professional practices and artistic approaches intersect and interact. As the first project in Italy to systematically implement the deep mapping method, it places fieldwork and territorial policies at its core, with the aim of portraying the present of territories that are often neglected or described through stereotypes or oversimplified narratives. Since 2019, the

project has involved five Italian regions and is preparing for its sixth edition in 2026. In 2024 and 2025, it was supported by PRIN 2022 PNRR funding. The results are collected in an online archive, in the territories with products and artefacts and in the deep maps/mappe profonde series published by Mimesis Edizioni.



One of the moments of exchange with the local community in Serrara Fontana. Photo: A. Zemoz

AGENTIVE – Digital, Multilingual and Cross-Sectoral Early Childhood Education Through School-University-Business Synergies

INFO

DURATION
10/2024 – 09/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€400,000.00 (unibz €60,720.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Erasmus+ KA2

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Pädagogische Hochschule Graubünden, University of Primorska, University of Luxembourg, Universität Münster, Web2Learn

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Marjan Asgari (PI), Sven Andreas Jens Nickel (co-PI), Renata Zanin, Yasmine Azza

WEBSITE
agentive.uni-muenster.de



Deep Map – Deep Mapping Crisis and Transformation in Non-Metropolitan Areas: Representations, Society and Territorial Policies

INFO

DURATION
11/2023– 02/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€264,114.00 (unibz €146,635.58)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National Project – PRIN 2022 PNRR

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Università degli Studi di Milano, Municipalities of Jovençan, Oppido Lucano, Porto Tolle, Serrara Fontana, Arvier

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Daniele Ietri (PI), Tobias Boos, Daniela Salvucci, Dorothy Louise Zinn

WEBSITE
Deepmap.projects.unibz.it



MAPPE PROFONDE E NARRAZIONI DEI TERRITORI

Graphic design by: Studio Ascionemagro

Faculty of Engineering



Photo: unibz | Eleonora Lunardoni

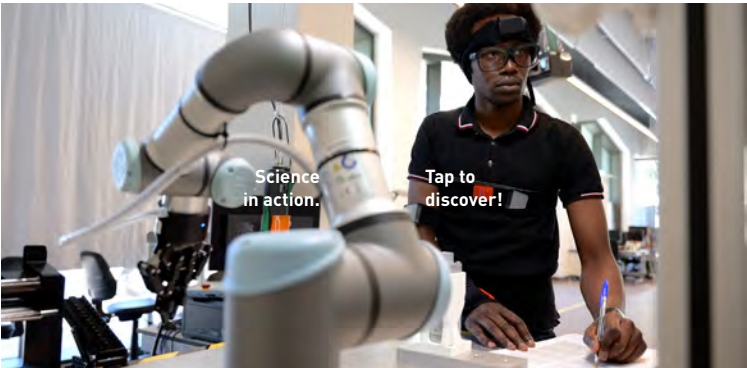
KEY DATA

PEOPLE

898 Students, of whom
146 PhD Students
48 Tenured Professors
42 Researchers
53 Research Assistants
11 Technical Staff
19 Administrative Staff

ProMentoHR focuses on collaborative assembly, a production mode in industrial settings in which operators and robots work together. Alongside mechanical safety, often considered the main priority, the initiative places particular emphasis on cognitive ergonomics (the mental workload of operators), which is essential for safety, well-being and performance. The project studies the cognitive workload required

of operators in collaborative assembly systems to understand how the design of these systems affects their work. The results contribute to the development of a practical tool supporting assembly system designers without specific expertise in human factors that reduces subjectivity in system design, promoting safer, more efficient and more sustainable systems.



Video: unibz | Matteo Vegetti

AI4SWEng brings together 15 international partners specialised in software engineering and Artificial Intelligence. The project leverages Machine Learning and Large Language Models to develop advanced AI-based tools that support software developers in making development processes more efficient, reliable, secure and compliant with regulations. The proposed solu-

tions are validated through four representative use cases in the fields of software development, healthcare, resource-constrained cyber-physical systems and next-generation battery management for electric vehicles. AI4SWEng aims to improve the entire software lifecycle, contributing to more sustainable, robust and future-oriented software engineering practices.



The AI4SWEng project kick-off meeting in Tallinn, Estonia. Photo: AI4SWEng

ProMentoHR – Innovative Worker-Centric Assessment Method for Cognitive Workload in Human-Robot Collaborative Systems in Manufacturing

INFO

DURATION
09/2023 – 12/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
€249,400.00 (unibz €106,026.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National Project – PRIN 2022

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Università di Bologna

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Luca Gualtieri (PI), Patrick Dallasega (co-PI), Gilbert Soto, Nourhane Nader



ProMentoHR
Assessing Cognitive Workload
In Human-Robot Collaboration

AI4SWEng – AI Engineering Suite to Support Agile Efficient Software Engineering

INFO

DURATION
12/2024 – 11/2028

PROJECT FUNDING
€4,496,450.64 (unibz €342,056.25)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Horizon Europe

PARTNER(S)
The project involves 15 partners. For the full list of participants, please visit the project's website.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Giuseppe Di Fatta (PI), Andrea Rosani (co-PI)

WEBSITE
ai4sweng.eu



AI4SWENG

CyclOps addresses the challenge of effectively managing large volumes of data from diverse sources. Many organisations struggle to use these data in a coordinated way, risking the creation of fragmented and inefficient systems. CyclOps develops tools to automate the entire data lifecycle, from their collection and integration to sharing and analysis, leveraging as a unifying element an integrated knowl-

edge base developed by unibz. This system uses Knowledge Graphs to flexibly connect heterogeneous information and make it more understandable and interoperable. The objective is to facilitate data sharing and support the development of new innovative services, contributing to the advancement of European Data Spaces.



Photo: KOBU Agency | Unsplash

MAIPM explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enhance the analysis and management of business processes. Today, many organisations have access to large amounts of digital data that record operational activities, but often struggle to fully exploit them. MAIPM develops a new multimodal AI framework for process mining, capable of integrating information on dynamics,

objects, data and uncertainty within a single perspective. The objective is to improve the effectiveness of process analysis, discovery and conformance checking, supporting continuous organisational improvement. The project thus aims to strengthen the integration between AI and process science, creating more intelligent and reliable tools for decision support.



Photo: Agefis | Unsplash

CyclOps – Automated End-To-End Data Lifecycle Management for FAIR Data Integration, Processing and Re-Use

INFO

DURATION
01/2024 – 12/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€8,887,822.00 (unibz €352,500.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Horizon Europe

PARTNER(S)
The project involves 24 partners. For the full list of participants, please visit the project's website.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Diego Calvanese (PI), Davide Lanti, Kamal Hamaz, Marco Di Panfilo, Albulen Pano, Alessandro Artale

WEBSITE
www.cyclopsproject.eu

MAIPM – Multi-modal AI for Process Mining

INFO

DURATION
04/2024 – 12/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €214,618.75

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National Project – PNRR Cascade Funding

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Marco Montali (PI), Sarah Winkler (co-PI), Anti Alman, Alessandro Artale, Alessandro Burigana, Chiara Ghidini, Nicola Gigante, Fabrizio Maria Maggi

FRONTSH1P aims to support the transition towards a circular economy in the Polish region of Łódzkie. The project has developed four Circular Systemic Solutions dedicated to wood packaging, food and feed, water and nutrients, and plastic and rubber waste, all designed to be replicable across the other partner countries. The unibz team led the solution on wood packaging, developing innovative

technologies for waste valorisation and biomass gasification, thereby supporting circular value chains and carbon-negative processes. Through the creation of regional clusters and the active involvement of public and private stakeholders, FRONTSH1P promoted decarbonisation and fostered resilient innovation and territorial regeneration.



The four areas of action for which four Circular Systemic Solutions were developed. Photo: FRONTSH1P

METAWOOD strengthens the competitiveness and sustainability of the timber construction industry through technological innovation, the use of materials and processes with reduced environmental impact and specialised training pathways. Prototypes of timber walls inspired by the principles of metamaterials (with physical properties not found in nature) were developed, achieving significant

improvements in acoustic performance – especially at low frequencies – alongside tools for assessing the life cycle of buildings, thus simplifying ecodesign. A cross-border network of research institutions and companies has designed dedicated training programmes for multi-storey timber constructions, contributing to the development of new technical skills and to the growth of the sector.



Photo: METAWOOD

FRONTSH1P – A Fronrunner Approach to Systemic Circular, Holistic & Inclusive Solutions for a New Paradigm of Territorial Circular Economy

INFO

DURATION
11/2021 – 10/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
€16,112,118.01 (unibz €545,599.60)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Horizon 2020

PARTNER(S)
The project involves 35 partners. For the full list of participants, please visit the project's website.

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Marco Baratieri (PI), Francesco Patuzzi (co-PI), Massimiliano Renzi, Vittoria Benedetti, Stefano Piazza, Carlo Caligiuri, Lorenzo Menin, Daniele Antolini, Zubair Qureshi

WEBSITE
frontsh1p.eu



METAWOOD – Metamaterials and Training Applied to Multi-Story Wooden Buildings

INFO

DURATION
11/2023 – 03/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
€748,423.20 (unibz €216,720.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU Project – Interreg I-A

PARTNER(S)
unibz (partner), Centro Consorzi, Apri-formazione S.r.l., Universität Innsbruck

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Andrea Gasparella (PI), Giovanni Pernigotto, Marco Caniato, Mario Alves da Silva, Shahryar Habibi

WEBSITE
metawood-interreg.eu



Competence Centres

Competence Centre for Sustainability

The Centre integrates research, teaching and knowledge transfer on ecological, social and economic sustainability in South Tyrol. It is dedicated to studying the economic, environmental and social dimensions of policies and actions aimed at sustainable development at both local and global levels. Its mission is to conduct research, engage in partnerships and foster educational initiatives that advance sustainability in South Tyrol and beyond. The core objective is to promote and accelerate the region's transition to greater sustainability. The Centre's research areas are: 1) Economic Sustainability; 2) Social Sustainability; 3) Environmental Sustainability Environmental Sustainability.

KEY DATA

STEERING BODY
Elisabeth Gsottbauer (Director), Aart van Bezooijen, Camilla Wellstein

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Athanasia Athanassiou, Robert F. Engle, Martin Gerzabek

ANTGREENWASH – The Impact of Greenwashing Activities on Corporate Policies and Security Pricing

ANTGREENWASH develops an early warning system to identify greenwashing practices (misleading environmental claims) by companies. The research analyses how greenwashing risk is reflected in financial markets in Europe and the United States, showing that the detection of such practices can have negative and lasting effects on firm value. The project uses Artificial Intelligence to analyse sustainability re-

ports and detect signals of greenwashing. Its main innovation is an assessment system that combines multiple indicators to anticipate potential climate-related controversies, providing a tool to identify risky behaviours before legal or regulatory consequences arise.

INFO

DURATION
01/2024 – 09/2025

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €58.673,68

FUNDING PROGRAMME
National Project – PNRR Cascade Funding

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator)

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Massimiliano Bonacchi (PI), Claudia Curi (co-PI), Paolo Perego, Nicola Dalla Via, Olga Bogachek, Paolo Coletti, Luca Menicacci, Francesco Reggiani

WEBSITE
www.grins.it



01



02



REG025 – Safety and Design: Educational and Communication Strategies

REG025 addresses workplace safety as a crucial challenge, especially in high-risk sectors such as construction and metallurgy, where accident rates remain high. In addition to regulatory progress, the research emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of active prevention, capable of directly engaging workers and overcoming superficial approaches to risk management. To this end, REG025 explores the potential of design as an educational and communicative tool to raise awareness on safety issues from an early age. The project led to the development and testing of playful devices, tested with school-age children during an open day at unibz.

INFO

DURATION
02/2025 – 01/2026

PROJECT FUNDING
unibz €5,000.00

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Contract Research

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Jacopo Ammendola (PI), Giorgio Camuffo (co-PI), Virginia Professione

Competence Centre for Management of Cooperatives

The Centre aims to conduct research and to transfer knowledge on cooperative management beyond disciplinary boundaries. Its research and dissemination activities seek to strengthen the competitiveness and capacity of the cooperative sector in South

Tyrol to address ongoing social, ecological and economic transformations. The Centre collaborates with South Tyrolean stakeholders involved in the development of the cooperative system, as well as with national and international research partners. Its research focuses on three areas: 1) the institutional role and regional importance of cooperatives; 2) leadership, management and corporate governance; 3) personnel management within cooperatives.

KEY DATA

STEERING BODY
Richard Lang (Director), Alessandro Narduzzo, Peter Agstner

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Johanna Mair, Dietmar Rößl, Francesco Rullani, Manuela Paulmichl, Christian Tanner, Alex Baldo

ABICOOP – Housing Needs and Housing Cooperatives: Innovative Elements and Operational Guidelines

The project analyses emerging housing needs in Trentino within a context shaped by an aging population, increasing household fragmentation and rising housing costs. The report “Housing Needs and Cooperative Housing Models” compiled by EURICSE, is based on a collaborative process carried out between 2024 and 2025 together with the Competence Centre at unibz and Trentino’s Office for Housing Policies. The report examines the evolution of housing needs by integrating data and comparisons at the local, national and European levels.

- 01 — Photo: AI-generated
02 — Photo from the event “Sicurissimo”, held at unibz in October 2025. Photo: unibz
03 — Cooperative housing as a tool for addressing housing needs and promoting sustainable living environments. Photo: Richard Lang



03

Particular attention is given to the cooperative model as a tool to address housing challenges and to strengthen inclusive and sustainable communities.

INFO

DURATION

10/2024 – 01/2025

PROJECT FUNDING

unibz €12,000.00

FUNDING PROGRAMME

Contract Research

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM

Lang Richard (PI), Giovannini Michela (co-PI)

WEBSITE

euricse.eu/en/publications/bisogni-abitativi

Competence Centre for Mountain Innovation Ecosystems

The Centre funded by the National Plan for Recovery and Resilience (PNRR), promotes the development of new products, processes and lifestyles capable of consolidating or maintaining local traditions that guarantee the survival and demographic viability of mountain contexts. The centre also promotes interaction between universities and the region in sectors considered strategic for the implementation of green and smart transitions and contributes to the creation of a tourism ecosystem in which culture acts as a key driver of strategic innovation.

KEY DATA

STEERING BODY

Fabrizio Mazzetto (Director), Guido Orzes, Serena Volo

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Maurizio Bergamini Riccobon, Antoniotto Guidobono Cavalchini, Christina Paulus

BREATHING – Best Practices to Adapt to Climate Change: Interregional Approach to Reduce Urban Emergent Contamination

BREATHING investigates how climate change affects air quality in urban areas by altering pollutant degradation processes, influencing the use of plant protection products and contributing to the formation of emerging pollutants. The project aims to support communities in adapting urban environments to climate change by anticipating and mitigating its impacts on air quality. unibz conducts controlled-environment tests on drift phenomena (the unintended spread into surrounding areas) generated by the sprayers (agricultural spraying devices). The results will be used to develop guidelines for public administrations and farmers, as well as forecasting and monitoring tools for air quality.

INFO

DURATION

02/2025 – 03/2027

PROJECT FUNDING

€656,705.00 (unibz € 94.080,00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME

EU Project – Interreg I-A

PARTNER(S)

unibz (partner), Agenzia Regionale per la Prevenzione e Protezione Ambientale del Veneto, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Universität Innsbruck

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM

Fabrizio Mazzetto (PI), Lorenzo Becce

WEBSITE

afilab.groups.unibz.it/?page_id=239

CereAlp – Development and Testing of Retrofit Solutions for Agricultural Machinery for Cereal Production in Alpine Regions

CereAlp aims to establish a cross-border support structure for cereal production in alpine regions. The project activities include the design of mechanised solutions and assistance for specialised workshops, the execution of tests to assess the efficiency and safety of machinery, remote monitoring of equipment and the analysis of grain losses during harvesting. The project includes a preliminary assessment of the cereal value chain in mountain areas, as well as training and dissemination activities. The cereal production contexts of South Tyrol and Valais provide ideal conditions for testing this approach, which can help



supplement farmers' income and strengthen the development of mountain agriculture.

INFO

DURATION
01/2025 – 06/2027

PROJECT FUNDING
€638,833.56 (unibz €491,833.56)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
EU project – Interreg I-CH

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator), Verein Erlebniswelt Roggen Erschmatt, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Roggen Klein-Produzent(innen) im Oberwallis (RoKPOb), Bürger-Genossenschaft Obervinschgau

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Fabrizio Mazzetto (PI), Andreas Gronauer, Giovanni Carabin, Francesco Fabio Nicolosi, Andreas Mandler, Roberto Limongelli

WEBSITE
www.interreg-italiasvizzera.eu/wps/portal/site/interreg-italia-svizzera/DettaglioRedazionale/progetti/progetti-finanziati/cerealp



Competence Centre for Plant Health

Plant health, which is essential for food quality and the environment, is threatened by climate change. The Centre studies abiotic and biotic stresses to understand their impact on plant health, monitor changes, anticipate future challenges and develop timely solutions. The Centre's research is divided into three areas: 1) Abiotic factors, focusing on the study of plant-soil-environment interactions by integrating genetics, physiology, soil chemistry and biodiversity to understand plant responses to environmental stresses; 2) Biotic factors, focusing on the study of diseases and pests to develop sustainable control strategies; 3) Technology and Management, focusing on the development of automated and precision solutions for crop protection.

KEY DATA

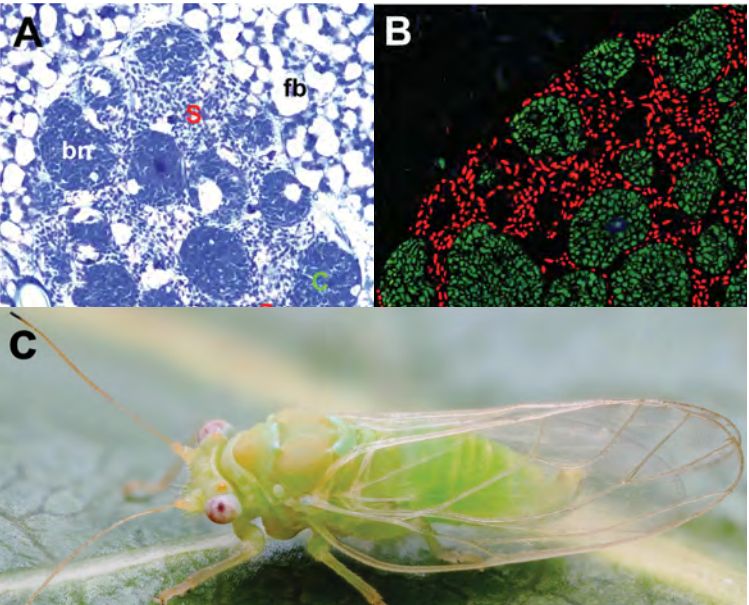
STEERING BODY
Luigimaria Borruso (Director), Hannes Schuler, Suzanne Zeilinger-Migsich

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Carmen Büttner, Michele Morgante, Ilaria Pertot, Michael Oberhuber, Andrea Battisti

SymPToL – Dynamics of Symbiont Evolution Across the Psyllid Tree of Life

SymPToL studies psyllids, a group of insects that feed on plant phloem (sap) and live in association with various symbiotic bacteria. The project anal-

- 04 – Device for vertical distribution of air flows for the evaluation of sprayer performance in orchards. Photo: Agroforestry Innovation Lab – unibz
- 05 – A traditional reaper-mower: an example of machinery that can be adapted through retrofitting solutions, including integration onto mountain tractors through electrical coupling. Photo: Agroforestry Innovation Lab – unibz
- 06 – Symbiont localization in *Cacopsylla pyrisuga* (exemplar shown in C). A–B Organisation of the bacteriome containing the symbionts *Carsonella* (green) and *Sodalis* (red). Photo: Communications Biology | Liliya Štarhová Serbina



yses different psyllid species to characterize the communities of symbiotic microorganisms associated with them. Through a multidisciplinary approach combining whole-genome sequencing, phylogenetic analyses, fluorescence microscopy and metabolite profiling, SymPToL investigates how these symbionts are acquired, lost or replaced over time, as well as their nutritional and protective roles for their insect hosts. The project contributes to a deeper understanding of the evolution and dynamics of relationships between insects and microorganisms.

INFO

DURATION
05/2025 – 04/2028

PROJECT FUNDING
€590,000.00 (unibz €300,000.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Joint Project – Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol

PARTNER(S)
unibz, Martin Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Max-Planck-Institut für chemische Ökologie

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Hannes Schuler (PI), Yuanjie Li, Erika Corretto

Vectorise – Implications of Regional Differences and Climate Change on the Apple-Psyllid-Phytoplasma Pathosystem

Vectorise investigates the role of certain insects, psyllids, as vectors of *Candidatus Phytoplasma mali*, the phytoplasma responsible for apple proliferation, a disease that damages to apple orchards. The project focuses on the species *Cacopsylla melanoneura* and *C. picta*, which are the main vectors of transmission. Recent studies indicate that transmission efficiency depends on the genetic characteristics of both the insect and the phytoplasma.

Vectorise investigates the ecological and genetic factors influencing transmission in populations from different European regions, also considering the effects of global warming, in order to assess transmission risk and develop control strategies to protect orchards.

INFO

DURATION
04/2025 – 03/2028

PROJECT FUNDING
€1,122,000.00 (unibz €300,000.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Joint Project – Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol

PARTNER(S)
unibz, Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, RLP AgroScience

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Hannes Schuler (PI), Lapo Ragionieri, Erika Corretto

WEBSITE
researchportal.list.lu/projects/detail/vectorise

Competence Centre for School Inclusion

The Centre focuses on research, networking and scientific communication in the field of inclusive education. Its research integrates regional priorities with topics of international relevance, encompassing regional case studies and comparative analyses on a global scale. The results are shared with educational practice and contribute to the scientific debate on the topic. The Centre also develops training proposals for teachers and educators and provides counselling to schools, promoting high-quality inclusive educational practices. Through the organisation of conferences, participation in scientific and pro-



fessional networks, and the hosting of international experts, it fosters the development of knowledge on inclusive education.

KEY DATA

STEERING BODY

Simone Seitz (Director), Heidrun Demo, Vanessa Macchia

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Mai Anh Boger, Kyriaki Messiou, Marina Santi, Sabine Hofer, Christian Rispoli, Hansjörg Unterfrauner

DEM – Digital Education Material

The DEM project aims to improve the quality of digital textbooks through research-based design and inclusive practices. The project analysed 77 digital textbooks in mathematics and geography, evaluating their pedagogical, design, technological and accessibility features, highlighting low levels of interactivity, limited adaptive functionalities

and restricted accessibility. Based on a literature review, operational guidelines were developed for the design of effective and inclusive digital content. Drawing on these guidelines, prototypes were created for primary and lower secondary school levels, integrating interactive activities, adaptive learning pathways and accessibility-oriented solutions.

INFO

DURATION

12/2023 – 12/2025

PROJECT FUNDING

€250,000.00 (unibz €29,200.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME

EU project – Erasmus+ KA2

PARTNER(S)

unibz (partner), Centre pour le Développement des Compétences Relatives à la Vue Luxembourg, Technische Universität Graz, Universität Hamburg, Universität Münster, Universität Vechta

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM

Vanessa Macchia (PI), Stefania Torri

WEBSITE

www.dem-project.eu



APrA – Achievement: A Social Practice in Primary School. An International Comparative Analysis on Germany and Italy

APrA analyzes how school achievement and achievement differences are constructed within the everyday practices of primary education. The study compares the context of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano with that of Lower Saxony (Germany), two very different educational systems: Italy with an inclusive school system since the 1970s, while Germany maintains a selective system, including special schools. The pro-

- 07 — A *Cacopsylla melanoneura* individual on an apple tree (left) and the artificial set-up of the acquisition experiment (right). Photo: Hannes Schuler
- 08 — Photo: Unsplash | Robo Wunderkind
- 09 — How does learning turn into achievement? Photo: Anna Schwermann



ject considers school achievement not as an individual outcome, but as a socially constructed phenomenon, shaped by educational practices and by the institutional context. APra contributes to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms that produce achievement differences within school systems.

INFO

DURATION
01/2025 – 12/2027

PROJECT FUNDING
€802,726.00 (unibz €300,000.00)

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Joint Project – Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen – South Tyrol

PARTNER(S)
Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Simone Seitz (PI), Sara Baroni, Anna Schwermann, Aline Lupa



Achievement: A social practice in Primary School. An International Comparative Analysis on Germany and Italy

Logo: Lara Harnack

Competence Centre for Social Work, Social Pedagogy and Social Policy

The Centre conducts research on social issues of regional, national and international relevance. The focus lies on participatory approaches aimed at strengthening a democratic society. The research areas include: 1) Child and Youth Welfare; 2) Ageing, Care, Diversity, Gender and Migration; 3) Social Policy, Innovation in the Social Sector and Participation. Current projects address questions related to supporting fam-

ilies through socio-educational family assistance, the construction of migrant women's parenthood in the context of social services, as well as issues of poverty and democracy.

KEY DATA

STEERING BODY
Ulrike Elfriede Loch (Director), Dorothy Louise Zinn

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Maren Zeller, Folco Cimagalli, Koen Hermans, Michela Morandini, Bruno Marcato, Brigitte Mayr

Competence Centre for Sustainable Tourism

The Centre conducts applied research in tourism and sustainability to support the transition to a more sustainable future. In collaboration with key tourism stakeholders in South Tyrol, it promotes research and knowledge transfer across society, culture, economy and ecology, which are essential areas for developing responsible socio-economic practices and sustainable tourism. Its main research areas are: 1) Indicators for Socio-Economic Sustainability; 2) Sustainable Tourism and Digital Transformation; 3) Sustainable Mobility in Tourism. The Centre fosters synergies and supports funding initiatives to strengthen sustainable tourism in South Tyrol.

KEY DATA

STEERING BODY
Matthias Fuchs (Director), Federico Boffa, Serena Volo

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Miriam Scaglione, Martin Falk, Anna Scuttari

International Competence Centre on Food Fermentations

The Centre develops processes for the recovery of agri-food by-products for obtaining new ingredients for the enrichment of food and beverages or for their reuse within their original production cycles. Fermentation and precision fermentation are adopted as a sustainable strategy for the valorisation of these by-products. Another research line studies the functional metabolic traits of lactic acid bacteria and yeasts and their effects on human cell lines for their future use as probiotics. The Centre also investigates the valorisation of plant-based protein sources for the production of plant-based products with improved nutritional properties.

KEY DATA

STEERING BODY
Raffaella Di Cagno (Director), Carlo Giuseppe Rizzello, Rosalba Lanciotti

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Emanuele Zannini, Douwe van Sinderen, Christopher Courtin, Nicoletta Aquaro, Stefan Cappelletti, Ulrich Ladurner



Cooperation and Internationalisation

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano actively promotes the participation of its researchers in international and European research and innovation networks.



UnILiON (Universities Informal Liaison Offices Network) is an informal network of 54 liaison offices based in Brussels, representing over 160 leading universities from Europe, Japan and Russia. unibz is part of the Extended Secretariat supporting the organisation of brokerage events and the annual meeting.



ERIAFF (European Regions for Innovations in Agriculture, Food and Forestry) is an informal network of regional authorities working on shared interests, involving regional stakeholders. The Autonomous Province of Bozen-Bolzano is a member of this network. Within ERIAFF, unibz researchers collaborate with different thematic working groups active in the fields of agriculture and food, including the Agroecology Working Group (chaired by unibz, who is also part of the Agroecology Partnership), the High Tech Farming, the Plants Protein Working Group, the Food System Working Group and the Forested Region Working Group.



EIT FOOD is a pan-European organisation accelerating innovation to build a future-fit food system that produces healthy and sustainable food for everyone.



EUPHRESKO is a network of organisations that funds and coordinates national research in the phytosanitary area. Its main goal is to support cooperation in phytosanitary research and maintain a strong, long-term network of research stakeholders. Since 2022, unibz has been a member through its Competence Centre for Plant Health.



GIURI (Gruppo Informale di Uffici di Rappresentanza Italiani) is an informal platform that brings together liaison offices and interest representatives of Italian stakeholders active in Research and Innovation at the EU level.



ERRIN (European Regions Research and Innovation Network) aims to reinforce the regional and local dimension in EU research and innovation policies and programmes. unibz is one of the co-chairs of the Bioeconomy Working Group.



BIC (Bioeconomy Industry Consortium) is a non-profit organisation established in Brussels in 2013 to represent the private sector in a public-private partnership (PPP) with the European Commission, aimed at strengthening Europe's bio-based industries. unibz is an associate member.

European Partnerships

European partnerships are key instruments for fostering collaboration between the European Commission, public institutions, research organisations and stakeholders around shared strategic priorities. Within Horizon Europe, co-funded partnerships support research and innovation activities through joint contributions from the European Commission, Member States and regions (including the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano). In this context, the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano actively participates contributing to initiatives that address global challenges related to biodiversity protection, sustainability, agroecology and food systems. These collaborations strengthen the university's role within European networks and enhance the impact of research locally and beyond.



Biodiversa+ is the European partnership dedicated to biodiversity protection and ecosystem restoration, aiming to support sustainable policies and practices through research. The Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano is among the co-funding partners and unibz contributes to the activities as Task Leader in the creation of competence centres, fostering active knowledge exchange between the partnership and policymakers.



The **Agroecology Partnership** promotes the transition towards sustainable, resilient and innovative agricultural systems, while ensuring farming remains a profitable and attractive activity for farmers. The Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano is a co-funding partner and unibz actively participates in research activities as coordinator of Task 5.4, focusing on analysing the contribution of funded projects to the agroecological transition.



FutureFoodS

The European Partnership **Sustainable Future of Food Systems** aims to make European food systems more sustainable, inclusive and resilient by integrating research, innovation and public policies. The Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano participates as a co-funding partner, while unibz is part of the reference ecosystem, contributing to the scientific dialogue on food sustainability and taking part in related project calls.

Sunrise Alliance

The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano is part of the SUNRISE Alliance – Smaller (Strategic) Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution – a strategic network funded by the European Union that brings together nine small-sized universities located in non-metropolitan regions: unibz, the Technische Universität Ilmenau (DE), the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów (PL), the Université de Technologie de Compiègne (FR), the European University Cyprus (CY), Mälardalen University (SE), the Università Politecnica delle Marche (IT), the “Džemal Bijedić” University of Mostar (BA), and the Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo (PT). The Alliance aims to strengthen the role of universities rooted in peripheral regions as drivers of innovation,

sustainability, and regional development, with a particular focus on STEM and STEAM disciplines.

SUNRISE enhances the potential of universities that share common challenges, such as attracting students, counteracting brain drain and strengthening links with the local economic and social fabric. Through international cooperation, partner universities develop innovative teaching formats, models for integrating sustainability into education, flexible mobility programmes and strategies for joint research and knowledge transfer to businesses and society.

The Alliance involves over 60,000 students, 7,700 members of academic and administrative staff, and 49 faculties across Europe. The universities share expertise, infrastructure and best prac-

tices, fostering interdisciplinary synergies, multilingualism and cooperation with institutional, scientific and industrial partners.

The Alliance contributes to shaping a model of a European university capable of combining global innovation, sustainability and responsiveness to the needs of local communities, while also enhancing the cultural, linguistic, and economic diversity of the regions involved.



Group photo during the opening ceremony of the SUNRISE Alliance. Photo: Ilmenau University



Co-funded by
the European Union

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and Seal of Excellence

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are among the most prestigious European programmes supporting the mobility of outstanding researchers. The Postdoctoral Fellowships fund innovative projects in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral settings, also fostering knowledge transfer and strengthening host institutions. The Seal of Excellence, awarded to excellent proposals that cannot be funded due to budget limitations, certifies their quality and facilitates access to alternative funding, such as that provided by the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano. unibz actively supports applicants through the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Days, offering practical workshops on proposal writing, including training activities, mentoring, exchanges with experts and guidance throughout the preparation and submission of proposals. Over the past three years, unibz's commitment to the

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships has resulted in the funding of three projects and the awarding of the Seal of Excellence to a further 12 projects. Since 2020, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano has supported 16 of these projects, including those developed at unibz and those transferred from other institutions. This approach strengthens the university's research environment and its ability to attract international talent, turning excellent proposals into funded opportunities.

piARTkz – Performing Identities. Art, Politics, and Social Movements in Kazakhstan

piARTkz challenges the idea that the public sphere is the only grassroots force in processes of democratic transformation. The project explores the role of contemporary art and "activism" in Central Asia, particularly in

Kazakhstan, highlighting how semi-private art spaces become sites of political experimentation in authoritarian contexts. Here, artists and small publics develop new visions of identity, gender, nationhood and society, challenging dominant narratives. Through an interdisciplinary approach, piARTkz demonstrates the transformative potential of these spaces as alternative arenas for participation and social change, helping to redefine forms of political action emerging from society.

INFO

DURATION
11/2025 – 10/2027

PROJECT FUNDING
€208,163

FUNDING PROGRAMME
Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano – South Tyrol – Seal of Excellence

PARTNER(S)
unibz (coordinator)

UNIBZ RESEARCHER TEAM
Karina Gaibulina (PI), Roberto Farneti (co-PI)



Participants in the 2025 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Days. Photo: unibz



