

# Ulysseus International Branch

Highlighting Ulysseus  
Partnerships and Beyond  
Europe Expansion



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## Ulysseus International Branch & Strategic Partnership

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# 0. Introduction to the Ulysseus International Branch Brochure

Welcome to the Ulysseus International Branch Brochure, designed for educators, researchers, and institutional leaders looking to engage in impactful global collaborations. This brochure outlines Ulysseus' commitment to enhancing international partnerships and fostering research and innovation (R&I) excellence beyond Europe.

The brochure is structured into five key sections that collectively illustrate our vision and strategic approach:

- 1. About COMPASS:** This section introduces the COMPASS project, which functions as a satellite initiative of Ulysseus. It aims to drive transformative collaborations by connecting the European Research Area (ERA) and European Education Area (EHEA). COMPASS focuses on specific initiatives that enhance Ulysseus' role as a leading model for research and innovation, fostering local and regional development..
- 2. Ulysseus R&I Agenda:** Here, we delve into the Ulysseus R&I agenda, emphasizing the importance of building strategic collaborations with institutions worldwide. This section highlights the role of the "Compass Beyond Europe" initiative in extending our global reach.
- 3. Milestones:** This section showcases significant achievements in our journey toward international collaboration, including the recent integration of the University of Montenegro as a full member of Ulysseus, partnerships with the University of Da Nang and Laval University, and the establishment of the Ulysseus-Da Nang Education, Research, and Innovation Forum (UDERIF).
- 4. Strategic Partnerships:** We explore the essence of our strategic partnerships, illustrating how collaborations with global institutions facilitate knowledge exchange, joint research, and innovative solutions to complex challenges.
- 5. The Ulysseus & Da Nang Partnership:** This section serves as a model for future international collaborations, highlighting the steps taken to solidify the Ulysseus-Da Nang partnership and its implications for expanding our global network.

Through this brochure, we aim to inform and inspire potential partners about the opportunities for engagement with Ulysseus and the impactful initiatives driving our mission forward. Together, we can foster innovation and address global challenges through collaborative research and education.



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# 1. About COMPASS

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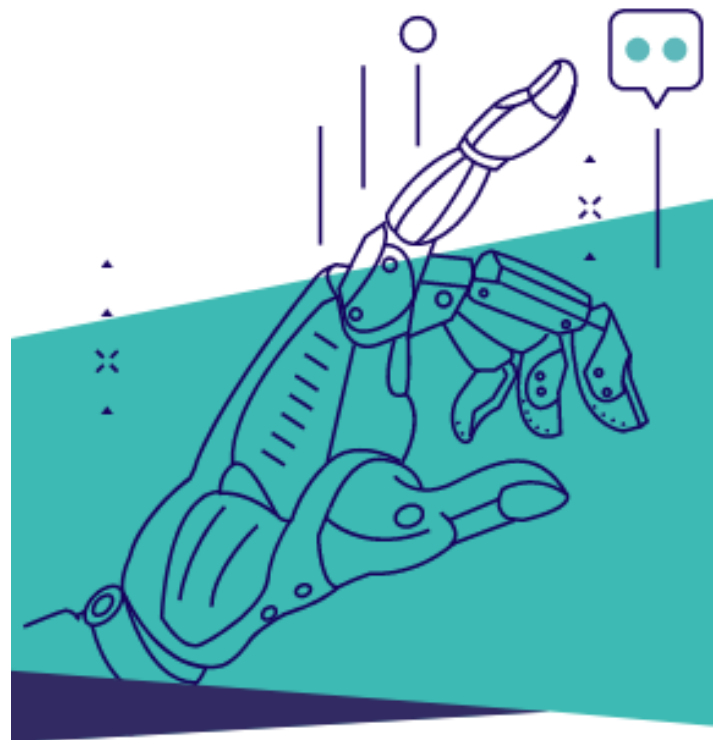
# 1. About COMPASS

## Driving Research and Innovation Excellence at Ulysseus

The COMPASS Project serves as a satellite for Ulysseus' vision of research and innovation excellence. It aims to solidify Ulysseus' position as a leading model by aligning with the alliance's long-term strategy and fostering collaboration between the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Education Area (EHEA).

COMPASS provides a framework for developing concrete action plans, transforming Ulysseus into an institutional model for research and innovation. This includes establishing best practices that can be shared with institutions both within and beyond the alliance. Ultimately, COMPASS guides Ulysseus through a transformative process, where interconnected Research, Innovation, and Education drive impactful local and regional development, contributing to Europe's economic, social, and cultural growth.

By strengthening the alliance's joint vision for research and innovation, COMPASS empowers Ulysseus to create a lasting impact across all levels of the participating institutions, fostering systemic, structural, and sustainable change.



# 2. Driving Ulysseus Global

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Ulysseus R&I Agenda

## 2. Ulysseus R&I Agenda

### A Springboard for International Collaboration Ulysseus R&I Agenda

The **COMPASS Ulysseus** Project serves as the engine behind Ulysseus' internationalization strategy. Focused on "Boosting Strategic Collaboration with Other Institutions," a key component was Work Package 7, "**Compass Beyond Europe.**"

This initiative not only strengthens collaboration within the alliance but also lays the groundwork for vital partnerships that extend Ulysseus' reach beyond its European borders.



***\*Work Package 7 (WP7) "Compass Beyond Europe," specifically focuses on promoting Ulysseus' R&I agenda globally.***



# 3. Milestones

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**A Significant Step towards  
Global Expansion**

## 2023-2024



**01**

### Building Strong International Partnerships

Signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (Da Nang & Laval) a clear framework for international collaboration.



The University of Danang



UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

**02**

### The Ulysseus-Da Nang Education, Research and Innovation Forum (UDERIF)

A catalyst for Ulysseus and Da Nang international research and innovation

**03**

### Branch Settlement Kick-Off Meeting (Montenegro)

Expanding Ulysseus global reach and strengthens its vision for the future with the University of Montenegro joining as a full member!

**04**

### Fostering Global Research & Innovation

Fostering international research and innovation collaboration through initiatives "Compass Beyond Europe" online conferences,

**05**

### Ulysseus – Danang Signing Ceremony: A Landmark Partnership

This momentous occasion marks the establishment of Ulysseus' first strategic partnership outside Europe, signifying a new chapter in international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

# Building Strong International Partnerships

Ulysseus commitment to international collaboration in R&I



The Ulysseus European University, a consortium uniting the University of Seville (Spain), Université Côte d'Azur (France), University of Genoa (Italy), Technical University of Košice (Slovakia), MCI Management Center Innsbruck (Austria), Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences (Finland), the University of Münster (Germany) joining in 2023, and the University of Montenegro (Montenegro), further strengthens its international network by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the University of Da Nang (Vietnam) and the University of Laval (Canada).

These agreements, signed by representatives of all current and future Ulysseus members, pave the way for collaboration in education, research, and other joint ventures between all parties. To facilitate this cooperation, hubs will be established in Da Nang and Laval, fostering an international model for research and educational exchange.





**The University of Danang**



**UNIVERSITÉ  
LAVAL**

Ulysseus prioritizes international collaboration in research and innovation (R&I), fostering partnerships that transcend geographical boundaries. Our collaborations with the University of Da Nang (UD) in Vietnam and Laval University in Canada exemplify this commitment.

By signing Strategic Partnership Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with these esteemed institutions, Ulysseus has established a strong foundation for knowledge exchange and collaborative research.

These partnerships reflect not only Ulysseus' global perspective but also serve as catalysts for innovation on a global scale. Through these partnerships, we can: Share our diverse expertise. Collaborate on tackling complex challenges. Advance research excellence across borders. This collaborative approach fosters innovation and empowers us to address global issues with a collective impact.



# The Ulysseus-Da Nang Education, Research and Innovation Forum



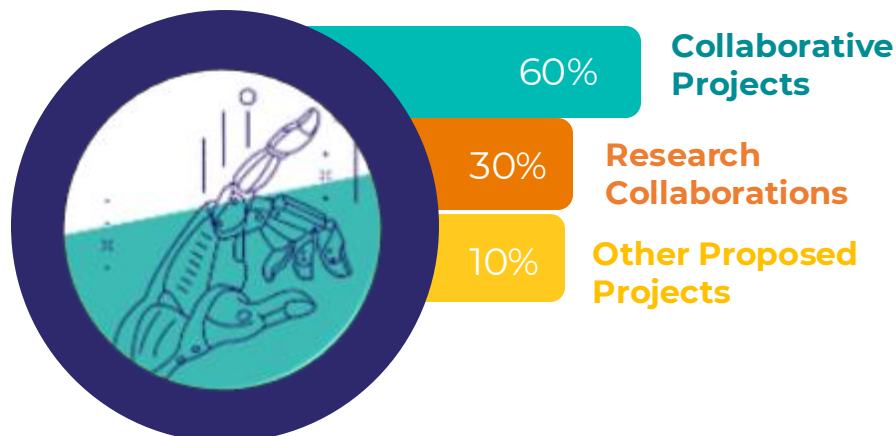
## Solidifying the Partnership

The Ulysseus-Da Nang Education, Research and Innovation Forum (UDERIF) brought together over 80 researchers to explore cutting-edge trends in education and innovation. Through in-depth discussions and brainstorming sessions, researchers from both institutions generated exciting ideas for joint research projects.

This exchange of knowledge aligns perfectly with the COMPASS project's goals of international collaboration. UDERIF lays the groundwork for future partnerships that will lead to impactful research with global significance.

### Collaborative Activities

- Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) Projects
- Joint Teaching Endeavors
- Research Collaborations
- Support for International Publications



### Additional Insights:

- Other Proposed Projects



# Ulysseus Secures Funding and Expands Its Reach

## Branch Settlement Kick-Off Meeting

Ulysseus achieved a major milestone in July 2023, securing €12.8 million in funding from the European Commission for a four-year second phase. This not only guaranteed continued operation, but also welcomed the University of Montenegro as its eighth member.

To kick off this new era, the University of Montenegro hosted 100 Ulysseus representatives in December 2023. This gathering focused on aligning the alliance's vision – fostering an inclusive, citizen-centered European university – across all members, both new and established. The event laid the groundwork for consolidating programs and structures developed during the first phase.

The University of Montenegro's renowned expertise in cybersecurity further strengthens Ulysseus' internationalization efforts. Their recent addition as a full member marks a significant step towards global collaboration, aligning perfectly with the alliance's values. This partnership is further solidified by the establishment of the **first Ulysseus branch outside Europe**: the University of Montenegro's Cybersecurity Innovation Hub. This hub serves as a focal point for research and innovation in cybersecurity, bringing together researchers from Ulysseus and beyond to address critical challenges in this field.



# 4. Fostering International Cooperation

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COMPASS Ulysseus Beyond Europe  
Online Conferences





# Beyond Europe: R&I Internationalization Strategies for European Universities

This online event gathered nearly 300 participants and was organized by MCI | The Entrepreneurial School® (Austria), one of the eight partner universities of the Ulysseus alliance. “Beyond Europe” is part of the dissemination activities of COMPASS, a Horizon 2020 project which aims at establishing Ulysseus as a model of excellence for Research and Innovation.

In an increasingly globalized world, cross-border cooperation is one of the key cornerstones of the EU Research & Innovation agenda. The EU global approach is clear in this regard and it involves mobilizing researchers and innovators as one of the crucial challenges for the well-being of future generations.

In this line, the conference “Beyond Europe” offered all participants a unique forum to reflect on the challenges experienced by European University Alliances encounter when developing their internationalization strategies beyond Europe. Although these alliances may have a mission-oriented approach towards establishing strategic partnerships through various R&I collaborations and projects, the process of building such partnerships must not only account for technical and organizational aspects, but must also encompass the respective partners needs and interests to ensure mutual respect, equity and transparency.

**Visit event site [here:](#)**





# Beyond Europe: Joining European Universities as R&I International Partners

The objective of this conference is to present the international cooperation strategy for R&I at Ulysseus. Expanding upon the success of the inaugural COMPASS Conference on Research and Innovation (R&I) internationalization strategies for European Universities Alliances (EUA's).

By contrast, this new edition is specifically devoted to the exploration and sharing of best practices for fostering partnerships outside the European Union (EU).

**Visit event site [here](#):**

Irrespective of the objectives or the nature of the partnership a European University Alliance may be, our goal is to bring together experts, scholars, and professionals in the field of R&I internationalization.

Beyond Europe: Joining European Universities Alliances as R&I International Partners' aims to provide participants with practical insights derived from their collective experiences and successes. The invaluable lessons and best practices shared by European University Alliances will serve as a guiding light for institutions, regardless of the type of partnership they are considering.

# 5.The Ulysseus & Danang Partnership

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A Model for International  
Collaboration

# 5. The Ulysseus & Da Nang Partnership

## Prior Steps & Future Actions

The Ulysseus-Da Nang partnership exemplifies how COMPASS fosters successful international research ties. Here's the recipe for success:

# 01

## Building a Strong Foundation

### **Communication & Relationships:**

Initial meetings facilitated connections, allowing representatives to discover shared research strengths and interests.

This rapport paved the way for exploring potential collaborative projects.

# 02

## Formalizing Collaboration

### **MoUs Take Center Stage:**

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marked a crucial step.

It established a clear roadmap with transparency and mutual understanding.

# 03

## Solidifying the Partnership:

### **From Discussion to Action:**

The Ulysseus-Da Nang Education, Research and Innovation Forum (UDERIF) brought researchers and educators together for in-depth discussions, brainstorming sessions, and the development of concrete joint research projects.

UDERIF solidified the partnership, setting the stage for future impactful research.

## A Model for Global R&I Collaboration

The Ulysseus-Da Nang partnership serves as a blueprint for establishing strategic partnerships beyond Europe. Building on the success of this collaboration, Ulysseus is actively exploring the establishment of an international branch, recognizing the importance of expanding its global network for Education, Research, and Innovation (ERI).

The signed Strategic Partnership Agreement with the University of Da Nang represents a significant milestone in this endeavor. Following the three-part approach outlined earlier – building a strong foundation, formalizing collaboration, and solidifying the partnership – UDERIF paved the way for concrete joint research projects.



Ulysseus remains firmly committed to fostering international collaboration. By leveraging its diverse expertise and partnerships established through initiatives like COMPASS, Ulysseus will continue to address global challenges and promote innovation on a global scale.



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