

Good Practices Guide on R&I Internationalization

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0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....7

1. INTRODUCTION.....9

1.1 Ulysseus: A Leading European University Alliance

1.2 COMPASS: flagship of Ulysseus R&I agenda & strategy

1.3 Beyond Europe: Expanding Ulysseus' Reach

2. ULYSSEUS INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY.....13

2.1 Ulysseus: A Global Network for Research and Innovation

2.1.1 Establishing International Branches

2.1.1.1 Ulysseus Internationalisation Roadmap

2.1.1.2 Branch Selection Criteria

2.1.1.3 Strategic Partnerships

2.1.2 Fostering Global Research Collaborations

2.1.2.1 Partnership Selection Criteria

2.1.2.2 Collaborative Research Projects

2.1.2.3 Knowledge Exchange Initiatives

2.1.3 Case Studies in Action

2.1.3.1 The University of Montenegro: A Significant Step Towards Global Expansion

2.1.4 Case Studies Strategic Partnerships: Expanding Global Reach

2.2 Ulysseus-Da Nang Partnership

2.2.1 Ulysseus-Da Nang Partnership Meetings

2.2.2 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

2.2.3 UDERIF Forum

2.2.3.1 Collaborative Initiatives Resulting from
UDERIF Conference

3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP...24

3.1 Meetings And Research Collaboration

3.2 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

3.3 ULYSSEUS-DA NANG EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FORUM (UDERIF)

3.3.1 Collaborative Initiatives Resulting from UDERIF
Conference

4. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: THE COMPASS BEYOND EUROPE ONLINE CONFERENCES.....33

4.1 Conference #1: R&I Globalization Strategies for European University Alliances

4.2 Conference #2: Joining European Universities Alliances (HEI) as R&I International Partners

4.3 Ulysseus' International Cooperation Strategy

5. GOOD PRACTICES ON R&I INTERNATIONALIZATION.....46

5.1 Key Initiatives for Fostering Global Collaboration

5.1.1 Joint Research Projects: Advancing Global Knowledge Through Collaboration

5.1.2 Student and Faculty Mobility Programs: Cultivating Global Citizenship

5.1.3 Leveraging Erasmus+ Funding for R&I Projects

5.2 Best Practices for Internationalization: Lessons from Ulyssus

5.2.1 Capacity Building and Talent Development

5.2.2 Addressing Global Challenges Through Collaboration

6. CONCLUSION: BUILDING A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR R&I.....50

This report presents Ulysseus' progress in establishing its first international branch, focusing on the strategic partnership with the University of Da Nang (UD) in Vietnam. The deliverable aims to serve as a guide for good practices in research and innovation (R&I) internationalization, drawing on insights from the D7.2 Impact Report

It outlines key milestones, collaborative initiatives, and recommendations for future partnerships while emphasizing the importance of a clear international cooperation strategy.



Photo: AI Canva

Benefits

- **Pioneering International Collaboration.** This strategy establishes Ulysseus as a leader in innovative international partnerships in research and innovation (R&I).
- **Pathway to a Future International Branch.** The flagship partnership paves the way for a more integrated international presence, potentially evolving into the first Ulysseus branch beyond the EU.
- **Alignment with EU Priorities.** The approach adheres to the EU's international cooperation strategy and the Global Gateway initiative.

Next steps

- **Identify potential partner institutions** for the flagship partnership, considering strategic alignment and regional priorities.
- **Develop a detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** outlining the partnership's structure, goals, and collaborative activities.
- **Create a roadmap for the partnership's evolution** towards a potential future international branch.

This document reviews the progress made by Ulysseus towards its internationalization goals, specifically through the establishment of partnerships outside the European Union. It highlights the strategic significance of the partnership with UD and provides an overview of actions taken to promote good practices in R&I internationalization.

1.1 ULYSSEUS: A LEADING EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE

Ulysseus European University (Ulysseus) is one of the 24 selected alliances from the second pilot call for proposals under the 2020 Erasmus+ work programme. Initially established with six universities, it has since expanded to include eight diverse institutions:

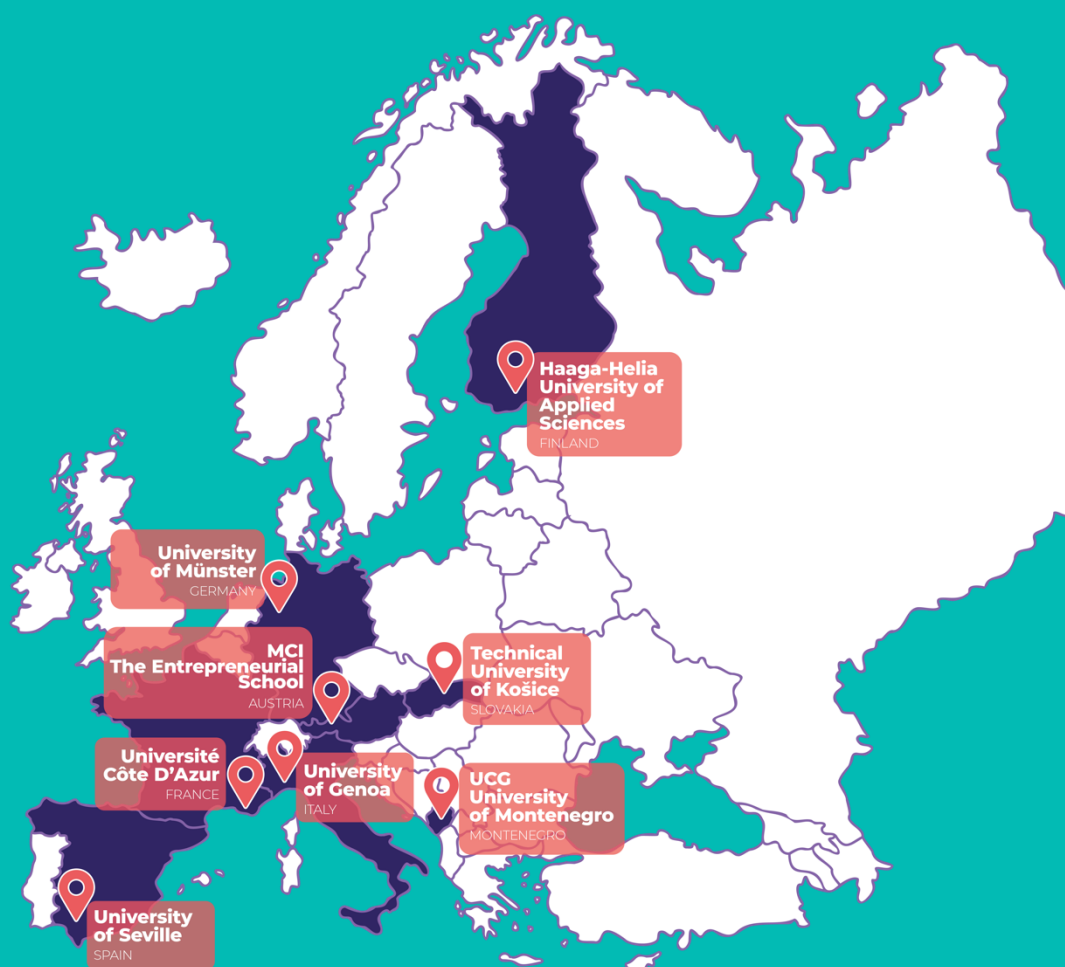
Established Members (2020):

- University of Seville (USE), Spain
- Université Côte d'Azur (UniCa), France
- University of Genoa (UniGe), Italy
- Technical University of Košice (TUKE), Slovakia
- MCI Management Center Innsbruck (MCI), Austria
- Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences (Haaga-Helia), Finland

New Members (2023):

- University of Münster (UM), Germany
- University of Montenegro (UoM), Montenegro

This unique blend of comprehensive universities (USE, UniCa; UniGe, WWU, UoM), a technical university (TUKE) and universities of Applied Sciences (MCI, Haaga-Helia) fosters a dynamic learning environment encompassing all four European regions (according to the categories set by EUROVOC). From the oldest to the youngest, from comprehensive to specialized business and technical Universities, from established, research-based Universities, to experts in entrepreneurship and academic innovation, sharing common objectives and long-lasting successful cooperation for boosting the four missions of the Higher Education institutions: education research, innovation and service to society.”¹



1.2 COMPASS: FLAGSHIP OF ULYSSEUS R&I AGENDA & STRATEGY

COMPASS serves as the flagship initiative for Ulysseus' Research and Innovation (R&I) agenda and strategy. Its core objective is to solidify Ulysseus' long-term vision as a model of excellence for R&I by strengthening synergies between the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Education Area.

Key Objectives:

- Placing Ulysseus' Innovation Hubs at the forefront of European research policy.
- Fostering activities that generate impactful research and innovation outcomes.
- Propelling Ulysseus towards becoming a leading European university model in Open Science, Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), and internationalization.

1.3 BEYOND EUROPE: EXPANDING ULYSSEUS' REACH

WP7 of COMPASS, aptly named "Compass Beyond Europe," spearheads Ulysseus' endeavors to promote its R&I agenda globally.

This aligns perfectly with the European Union's (EU) strategy for fostering international research and innovation cooperation. WP7 endeavours to transform Ulysseus in an international R&I European University model, particularly in identified geographical areas of

Mission: Promote Ulysseus' Research and Innovation (R&I) agenda on a global scale, aligning with the EU's international cooperation.

Goals:

Transform Ulysseus into a leading international R&I European University model.

Establish strong R&I collaborations in geographically targeted areas.

Alignment with EU Strategy:

Supports the EU's Global Gateway strategy by:

- Enhancing education (digital and traditional)
- Facilitating student/staff mobility through Erasmus+
- Strengthening research and innovation cooperation with partner countries.

Reflects the priorities of the Directorate –General Research & Innovation Strategic Plan 2020-2024, such as:


- Boosting R&I cooperation with Western Balkans, China, and Africa.

Supports Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world by:

- Promoting openness and reciprocity in R&I collaboration.
- Strengthening the EU's role in international R&I partnerships.

This initiative contributes to the EU's overall objective of building a "Stronger Europe in the World" through international cooperation in R&I.





2. ULYSSEUS INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

This section delves into Ulysseus' efforts to establish its first international branch, aiming to cultivate robust partnerships in R&I on a global scale.

2.1 Ulyssus: A Global Network for Research and Innovation

Ulyssus' strategic internationalization approach centers on building a robust global network for Research and Innovation (R&I). The establishment of international branches is a pivotal step towards achieving this goal, fostering collaborative research, educational opportunities, and innovation on a wider scale.



Photo: pressfoto

2.1.1 Establishing International Branches

2.1.1.1 Ulysseus Internationalisation Roadmap

Ulysseus' internationalization roadmap outlines a strategic approach for establishing international branches, guiding the alliance's efforts to expand its global reach and impact. Key components include:

Key Milestones:

- **Identification of Target Regions:** Ulysseus conducted a thorough assessment of potential regions based on existing research strengths, alignment with EU priorities, and funding opportunities.
- **Feasibility Studies:** Detailed evaluations assess the viability of establishing branches, considering market demand, institutional capacity, and regulatory requirements.
- **Partnership Development:** The roadmap prioritized the development of strategic partnerships with local universities or institutions to facilitate the establishment of branches.

Strategies:

- **Leveraging Existing Partnerships:** Ulysseus leveraged existing partnerships and networks to identify potential opportunities for branch establishment.
- **Alignment with EU Priorities:** The roadmap ensured that branch locations and initiatives aligned with the EU's international cooperation strategy and the Global Gateway initiative.
- **Funding and Resource Allocation:** Ulysseus developed a comprehensive plan for securing funding and allocating resources to support the establishment and operation of international branches.

2.1.1.2 Branch Selection Criteria

Ulysseus employs a set of criteria for selecting suitable locations for international branches, including:

- **Alignment with Ulysseus' Strategic Goals:** Potential locations were evaluated based on their alignment with Ulysseus' overall mission and strategic objectives.
- **Research Excellence:** Regions with strong research capabilities and expertise in areas that complement Ulysseus' strengths were prioritized.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Locations with a vibrant higher education landscape and potential for student and faculty exchange were considered.
- **Economic and Political Stability:** Regions with a stable economic and political environment were preferred to ensure the long-term sustainability of branches.
- **Regulatory Framework:** Compliance with local regulations and a favorable regulatory environment were essential factors.

2.1.1.3 Strategic Partnerships

The establishment of international branches is closely linked to strategic partnerships with local universities or institutions. Ulysseus sought partners that:

- Share Ulysseus' values and vision.
- Have complementary research strengths and expertise.
- Are committed to fostering collaborative research and education initiatives.
- Can provide local support and resources for branch establishment and operation

2.1.2 Fostering Global Research Collaborations

• 2.1.2.1 Partnership Selection Criteria

When selecting partners for global research collaborations, Ulysseus considers the following criteria:

- **Research Complementarity:** Partners should have complementary research interests and expertise to facilitate collaborative projects.
- **Shared Values:** Partners should share Ulysseus' values and commitment to excellence in research and innovation.
- **Geographic Diversity:** Collaborations with partners from diverse geographical regions can enhance Ulysseus' global reach and impact.

2.1.2.2 Collaborative Research Projects

Ulysseus has initiated numerous collaborative research projects with international partners, covering a wide range of topics. These projects aim to address global challenges, advance knowledge, and foster innovation.

Examples of Collaborations:

- **GreenH4S Smart Greenhouse Project:** A joint research project with international partners focused on developing sustainable agriculture solutions.
- **AI in Language Learning and Environmental Sustainability Studies:** Collaborative research exploring the application of AI in language learning and environmental sustainability.
- **Capacity Building in Higher Education Projects:** Collaborative projects aimed at enhancing educational practices and promoting capacity development in partner institutions.

2.1.2.3 Knowledge Exchange Initiatives

Ulysseus fosters knowledge exchange through various initiatives, including:

- **Joint Workshops and Conferences:** Organizing workshops and conferences to facilitate knowledge sharing and networking among researchers.
- **Student and Faculty Exchange Programs:** Promoting mobility opportunities for students and faculty to foster cross-cultural exchange and collaboration.
- **Publication Collaborations:** Supporting joint publications and research dissemination.

Impact Assessment

Ulysseus' global research collaborations have contributed to the advancement of knowledge, the development of innovative solutions, and the strengthening of international networks. Key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the future impact of these collaborations would include:

- **Joint Publications:** Number of joint publications in high-quality academic journals.
- **Research Grants:** Securing external funding for collaborative research projects.
- **Student and Faculty Mobility:** Number of students and faculty participating in exchange programs.
- **Network Expansion:** Growth in the number of international research partners and collaborations.



2.1.3 Case Studies in Action

This section showcase Ulysseus internationalization strategy at work

2. ULYSSEUS INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

2.1.3 Case Studies in Action

Ulysseus' internationalization strategy is exemplified by its partnerships with key institutions that align with its mission of fostering global research and innovation. Notable collaborations with the University of Montenegro, the University of Da Nang (UD), and Laval University highlight the practical application of Ulysseus' strategic efforts to expand its reach and influence.

2.1.3.1 The University of Montenegro: A Significant Step Towards Global Expansion

The University of Montenegro (UCG) officially became a full member of Ulysseus in November 2023, marking a pivotal moment in the alliance's internationalization journey. It is the largest and only public university in Montenegro, known for its strong academic and research tradition, making it an ideal partner in Ulysseus' quest for global expansion.



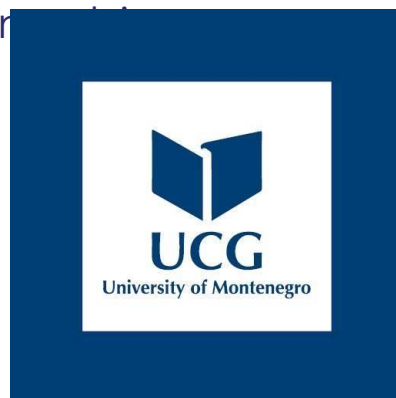
Photo: University of Montenegro

2. ULYSSEUS INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

2.1.3 Case Studies in Action

Key highlights of UCG include:

- **Largest Public University in Montenegro:** UCG holds a central position in the Montenegrin higher education landscape, providing comprehensive educational and research opportunities.
- **Commitment to Internationalization:** UCG is dedicated to enhancing its position within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and the European Research Area (ERA), fully aligning with Ulyseus' mission of global collaboration.
- **Alignment with Ulyseus' Values:** UCG's mission, grounded in fostering research, education, and societal impact, mirrors Ulyseus' own strategic objectives, paving the way for a productive partnership.



The establishment of the **Cybersecurity Innovation Hub** at UCG marked the **first Ulyseus branch outside Europe**. This pioneering initiative solidifies Ulyseus' commitment to international growth and fostering a global Research and Innovation (R&I) network. The hub, which leverages UCG's expertise in cybersecurity research, is positioned to address critical cybersecurity challenges and foster innovative solutions. It serves as a model for future Ulyseus branches, advancing cross-border collaboration in education and R&I..

2. ULYSSEUS INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

2.1.3 Case Studies in Action

2.1.4 Case Studies Strategic Partnerships: Expanding Global Reach

Building on Ulyssus' commitment to fostering strategic partnerships, the university has engaged in notable collaborations that exemplify the expansion of its international footprint. Two key partnerships illustrate Ulyssus' approach to global collaboration:

University of Da Nang (UD), Vietnam:



The University of Danang

In June 2023, Ulyssus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Da Nang (UD), Vietnam. This MoU established a collaborative framework in R&I and set the stage for the creation of the first Ulyssus branch outside of Europe. By leveraging UD's strengths in areas such as cybersecurity, this partnership aims to promote knowledge exchange and collaborative research.



Photo: University of Danang

2. ULYSSEUS INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY

2.1.3 Case Studies in Action

Laval University, Canada:

Similarly, in June 2023, Ulysseus entered into an MoU with Laval University, Canada, focusing on collaboration in education, research, and knowledge exchange. This partnership serves as a model for future international integration, as both institutions work toward joint research projects and academic exchanges.



These partnerships underscore Ulysseus' ability to align with global institutions that share its vision for innovation and excellence. Through these strategic collaborations, Ulysseus aims to extend its reach, contribute to global solutions, and enhance its role as a leader in international research and innovation.



3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP

This section provides an in-depth exploration of the key milestones and events within the Ulysseus-Da Nang partnership. It includes subsections detailing the meetings, the MoU signing, and the UDERIF forum.

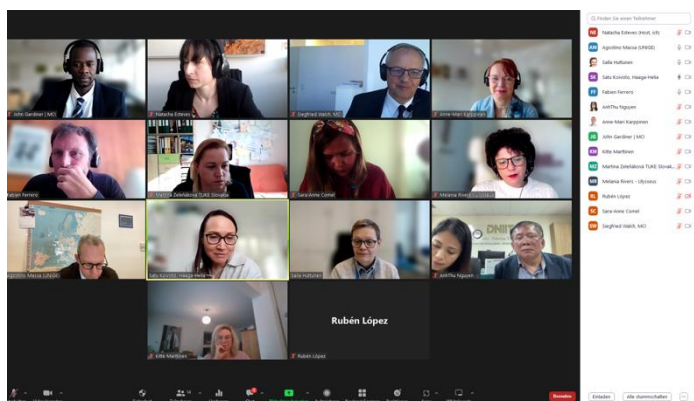
3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP

3.1 Meetings And Research Collaboration

The Ulysseus-Da Nang partnership was developed through a series of four key meetings that established the foundation for collaboration. These meetings explored synergies, identified joint research projects, and discussed faculty and student exchanges

Here is a breakdown of the four meetings and the research topics discussed:

MEETING #1



ULYSSEUS – DA NANG INTRODUCTORY (FEBRUARY 2023)

This meeting focused on identifying existing agreements and synergies between Ulysseus partners and the University of Da Nang (UD), particularly its Da Nang International Institute of Technology (DNIIT). Discussions explored potential collaborations in areas that could benefit from combined expertise.

MEETING #2

ULYSSEUS – DA NANG BILATERAL (APRIL 2023)

These in-depth discussions revolved around Ulysseus Innovation Hub topics and aimed to identify joint research projects between Ulysseus partners and Da Nang counterparts. Specific research areas included: Sustainable energy; Smart city development; Management (including micromanagement and marketing for hospitality and tourism); Social science (focusing on social and technical training of teachers within AI models and exploring the impact of AI on future training)

3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP

3.1 Meetings And Research Collaboration

MEETING #3



Photo: Université Côte d'Azur

ULYSSEUS SUMMIT MEETING IN NICE, FRANCE (MARCH 2023)

During the March summit in Nice (21-22 March), the Compass workgroup focused on Innovation Hubs, laying the groundwork for future collaborations.

MEETING #4



Photo: Université Côte d'Azur

MOU SIGNING MEETING IN NICE, FRANCE (JUNE 2023)

At this meeting, Ulysseus advanced its internationalization strategy by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the University of Da Nang (Vietnam) and Laval University (Canada). These agreements provide a framework for collaboration in education, research, and knowledge exchange, including the creation of research hubs in Da Nang and Laval.

The agreements establish joint initiatives and projects in research, academic exchanges, conferences, workshops and training programmes, aimed at achieving common goals. By outlining areas of collaboration, the MoUs foster coordination and joint efforts to address shared challenges and pursue mutual interests.

3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP

3.1 Meetings And Research Collaboration

MEETING #5



MOU SIGNING IN GENOA, ITALY (JUNE 2023)

This significant event marked a crucial step towards establishing the first Ulysseus Strategic Partnership "Beyond Europe" in Da Nang. The draft MoU with the University of Da Nang laid the groundwork for this expansion



Photos: Ulysseus

3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP

3.2 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)



This subsection elaborates on the significance of the MoU signed between Ulysseus and UD, highlighting its purpose, significance, and potential for further international partnerships.

The MoU signed in Genoa, Italy, in June 2023, stands as a landmark achievement in the Ulysseus-Da Nang partnership. Here's a closer look:

- **Purpose:** This MoU establishes a framework for cooperative relations in the fields of education, research, and other related activities between Ulysseus and the University of Da Nang.
- **Significance:** This signed agreement represents a formal commitment from both parties to collaborate and foster joint endeavors in education and research. It paves the way for the creation of the first Ulysseus branch outside Europe.
- **Additional Considerations:** The signing ceremony involved representatives from current Ulysseus member universities, new members for the next Erasmus+ call (University of Münster and University of Montenegro), and the University of Da Nang.

This highlights the potential for the MoU to serve as a springboard for further international partnerships.



3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP



3.3 ULYSSEUS-DA NANG EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FORUM (UDERIF)

This subsection provides insights into the UDERIF forum, emphasizing its role in solidifying international collaboration and promoting collaborative efforts in education and research.

The UDERIF forum held in October 2023 served as a pivotal platform for solidifying the international collaboration between Ulysseus and the University of Da Nang. It comprised the Ulysseus/Da Nang Workshop and the Governing Council meeting. Let's delve deeper:

OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of the workshop was to identify tangible project opportunities based on the synergies and common interests explored in previous meetings.

The Governing Council meeting aimed to formalize an agreement between Ulysseus and the University of Da Nang, laying the foundation for establishing the inaugural Ulysseus Hub/Branch.

The event structure included plenary talks, technical sessions, and demonstrations to facilitate collaboration.

3.3 ULYSSEUS-DA NANG EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FORUM (UDERIF)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:

Over 100 delegates participated, with more than 80 representatives from Ulysseus showcasing their expertise alongside colleagues from the University of Da Nang. This forum actively promoted collaborative efforts in education and research, contributing to a stronger international partnership.

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS:

Seven workshops engaged over 90 researchers, addressing key global challenges and hot topics in education, including:

- Smart Education (AI in Education and Green Cities)
- Higher Education Internationalization and Sustainable University
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Tourism and Digital Economy
- Culture, Art, and Heritage
- Sustainable Energy, Robotics, and Environment
- Data Science

These workshops aimed to boost strategic collaboration beyond the alliance, positioning Ulysseus as a model for European University excellence in Research and Innovation on a global scale.

3.3 ULYSSEUS-DA NANG EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FORUM (UDERIF)

3.3.1 Collaborative Initiatives Resulting from UDERIF Conference

The collaborative initiatives highlighted in this section signify the tangible outcomes of the UDERIF conference, a pivotal platform that solidified the international collaboration between Ulysseus and the University of Da Nang (UD). These initiatives reflect the shared commitment of both institutions to foster innovation and facilitate knowledge exchange across various domains of Education, Research, and Innovation (ERI).

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS:

Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) Projects: Teams from diverse institutions have joined forces to collaborate on CBHE projects, focusing on cutting-edge areas such as Smart Education, renewable energy, mobility, robotics, and the intersection of law and technology. These collaborative efforts aim to enhance educational practices, drive technological advancements, and address pressing societal challenges.

Joint Teaching Endeavors: The collaborative spirit extends to teaching activities, with joint efforts encompassing the development and delivery of virtual courses in Culture, Tourism, and Language Education. Additionally, collaborative Master's programs have been established, providing students with enriched learning experiences and opportunities for cross-cultural exchange.

Research Collaborations: The UDERIF conference has facilitated robust research collaborations, including virtual conferences, monthly seminars, and capacity-building activities. These initiatives foster interdisciplinary dialogue, facilitate knowledge dissemination, and contribute to the advancement of cutting-edge research in diverse fields.

3. KEY MILESTONE & EVENTS DA NANG PARTNERSHIP

3.3 ULYSSEUS-DA NANG EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FORUM (UDERIF)

Support for International Publications: Recognizing the importance of scholarly dissemination, Ulysseus and UD have extended support for international publications, enabling researchers to share their findings with a global audience. This support enhances the visibility and impact of research outcomes, fostering collaboration and promoting academic excellence.

ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS:

Proposed Projects: Noteworthy projects proposed during the conference include on-site studies on Vietnamese artistic heritage, aimed at understanding its historical significance and preservation challenges. Additionally, training activities have been proposed to address research challenges faced by Vietnamese universities, emphasizing capacity building and knowledge transfer.

Involvement of DNIIT: The Danang National Institute of Information Technology (DNIIT) has played a crucial role in coordinating collaborative efforts, further solidifying the partnership between Ulysseus and UD. DNIIT's involvement underscores the collective commitment to advancing educational and research endeavors in the region.



Photos: solidcolours (left) and Ron Lach (right)



Good Practices Guide on R&I Internationalization Plan



4. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: THE COMPASS BEYOND EUROPE ONLINE CONFERENCES

This section focuses on how the *Compass Beyond Europe* online conferences promote international cooperation within the Ulysseus R&I Plan International Promotion. The conferences serve as platforms for discussing strategies and best practices for fostering global collaboration among European University Alliances and their international partners.

4. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: THE COMPASS BEYOND EUROPE ONLINE CONFERENCES

4.1 Conference 1: R&i Globalization Strategies For European University Alliance

The first conference ([Access the links for Conference One here](#)) concentrated on strategies for European University Alliances (EUAs) to enhance global R&i collaboration. Key discussions emphasized the importance of expanding partnerships beyond the EU for greater research impact, increased attractiveness, and enhanced student mobility.

KEY POINTS:

- **Importance of Global Collaboration:** EUAs are encouraged to expand their R&i partnerships beyond the EU, which is crucial for increasing attractiveness, strengthening research outcomes, enhancing student mobility, and promoting European values on a global stage.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** The conference highlighted both the challenges and opportunities that come with expanding international collaborations. Discussions revolved around strategies for navigating these complexities while ensuring partnerships remain respectful, equitable, and transparent.
- **Sustainability and Success Factors:** Maintaining long-term collaborations is essential for success. The conference explored challenges faced at both organizational and individual levels, as well as success factors that contribute to building strong and lasting partnership.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

The conference featured prominent figures such as Franz Fischler (former EU Commissioner) and Frédérique Vidal (former French Minister of Higher Education), alongside representatives from the [European University Association](#) (EUA) and the [Cross-Border Education Research Team](#) (C-BERT).

Beyond Europe: R&I Internationalization Strategies for European Universities

- 📅 24 January 2024 · 10:30
↓
24 January 2024 · 14:30
- 📍 Online
- 📖 Beyond Europe and Conference
- 🔒 Registration is now closed
- 🌐 COMPASS
- 🏠 MCI | The Entrepreneurial School®



This online conference will take place on January 24 2024 and it is hosted by the MCI | The Entrepreneurial School® as part of Compass, a satellite project and flagship for the Ulysseus Alliance R&I agenda and strategy.

At this event, the objective is to discuss and reflect on the various challenges European University Alliances encounter when developing their internationalisation strategies beyond Europe.

About this conference

“The mobilisation of the world’s researchers and innovators will be crucial to the well-being of citizens and of future generations” (EU Global Approach to Research and Innovation).

Cross-border cooperation stands as one of the key cornerstones of the EU R&I agenda. As stakeholders in the field of R&I, European University Alliances must develop their strategies for R&I collaborations going beyond the EU boundaries.

Though European Universities 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.

This conference proposes to discuss and reflect on the various challenges European University Alliances encounter when developing their internationalisation strategies beyond Europe.



Watch this conference again!



Agenda

Part I: Reaching Beyond Europe: Building Collaborations Outside the EU

10:30 AM: Opening Session

- Welcome and Introduction
- Overview of the Conference
- Introduction of Speakers

10:35 AM: Session 1 Opening statement by Andreas Altmann, (Rector, MCI | The Entrepreneurial School – Austria)

10:45 AM: Session 2

Topic: “Strategic Approaches for Global Collaborations” by Franz Fischler (Former EU Commissioner) and Frédérique Vidal (Former Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation – France)

11:15 AM: Panel Discussion

Topic discussion between Franz Fischler and Frédérique Vidal

11:30 AM: Q&A Session

Selected and posed questions to Speakers from audience

11:40 AM: Networking Break

On this session



Although the majority of collaborations for European Universities happens here in the EU, all European University Alliances cooperate with partners all over the world. Aligning with the Global Approach strategy of the EC to Research and Innovation, European University Alliances are looking to expand beyond Europe.

Whether these collaborations aim at increasing attractiveness, strengthening research, enhancing student mobility, or fostering European values, they present as many opportunities as they do challenges. This panel will address the various strategies and models of European Universities R&I collaborations outside the EU against the backdrop of developing and ensuring respectful, equitable and transparent partnerships.

Part II: Sustaining International R&I Collaborations Outside the EU: Challenges and Success Factors

12:40 PM: Introduction to Part II

Recap of Part I and Introduction of Part II Speakers

12:45 PM: Session 3 by Stephane Berghmans (Director of Research & Innovation at the European University Association) on “Challenges in Sustaining International R&I Collaborations”

1:15 PM: Q&A Session

- Participants can submit questions through the chat
- Moderator selects and poses questions to Speakers

1:25 PM: Session 4 by Jessica Schueller & Jason Lane (Cross-Border Education Research Team – C-BERT) on “Success Factors for Long-term Global Partnerships”

1:45 PM: Q&A Session

- Participants can submit questions through the chat
- Moderator selects and poses questions to Speakers

1:55 PM: Closing Remarks

- Summary of Key Takeaways
- Thanking Speakers, Participants, and Sponsors
- Announcement of Future Events

On this session



Despite the many benefits, many challenges come along not only when establishing collaborations, but also when trying to maintain them, regardless of the forms R&I collaborations may take. Preserving long-term collaborations is crucial in fostering R&I.

This panel will address the challenges encountered by the actors of R&I not only at the organisational level, but also at the individual level (i.e. ensuring that the different actors of R&I feel included and valued within the collaboration setting). Furthermore, after identifying the challenges, the panel will discuss the success factors for strong and long-lasting partnerships.

SPEAKERS:

- **Andreas Altman**, Rector, MCI | The Entrepreneurial School – Austria
- **Franz Fischler**, Former EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries.
- **Frédérique Vidal**, Former Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation – France
- **Stephane Berghmans**, Director of Research & Innovation at the European University Association (EUA)
- **Jessica Schüller**, Project Manager & Research Associate, Transnational Education at Cross-Border Education Research Team (C-BERT)
- **Jason Lane**, Co-director of the Cross-Border Education Research Team (C-BERT)

Target audience



The conference theme is particularly significant for European University Alliances, both European and Non-European institutions keen on fostering connections for potential collaborations with European University Alliances, institutional leaders, and those actively engaged in the European Universities Initiative. Furthermore, the content is curated to resonate with higher education researchers and anyone intrigued by the nuances of R&I international strategies in higher education institutions.

Conference Organization & Contact

This event is organized by MCI|The Entrepreneurial School® based in Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria.

MCI|The Entrepreneurial School® seamlessly blends higher education, research, and practical application in management, society, technology, and life sciences.

“Beyond Europe: R&I Internationalization Strategies for European Universities” is part of the Ulyseus satellite project [COMPASS](#). Here, MCI leads “Beyond Ulyseus” a work package whose goal is to extend Ulyseus European University beyond Europe, sharing the impact of R&I good practices with universities and institutions outside the Ulyseus network.

For any queries regarding the organization of this event, please contact [John Gardiner](#) and [Katharina Wolf](#), event managers.



More info

→ [“Beyond Europe” conference addresses internationalization as a key priority to tackle the current challenges in the field of R&I](#)
Press Release

4. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: THE COMPASS BEYOND EUROPE ONLINE CONFERENCES

4.2 CONFERENCE 2: JOINING EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCES (HEI) AS R&I INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The second conference ([Access the links for Conference Two here](#)) delved into Ulysseus' specific strategy for international R&I collaboration, providing practical insights and best practices. It highlighted the role of science diplomacy in facilitating collaborations and showcased successful approaches for establishing partnerships outside the EU. A key focus was the integration of Danang University/Danang International Institute of Technology (DNIIT) and Université Laval into the Ulysseus Alliance.

KEY POINTS:

- **Science Diplomacy:** A panel discussion explored the critical role of science diplomacy in fostering collaborations between European universities (HEIs) and global partners.
- **Best Practices for International Partnerships:** Representatives from various European Universities shared their experiences and successful strategies for establishing partnerships beyond the EU.
- **Ulysseus Case Study: Laval & Danang/DNIIT Integration:** This session provided insights into the integration process of Laval University (Canada) and Danang University/DNIIT (Vietnam) into the Ulysseus Alliance, underscoring the commitment to advancing international collaboration.

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

- 📅 24 April 2024 · 10:00
↓
24 April 2024 · 14:30
- 📍 Online
- 🔗 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS3fwIGuQSU>
- 📖 Beyond Europe and Conference
- 🔒 Registration is now closed
- 🏠 COMPASS
- 🏠 MCI | The Entrepreneurial School®



This online conference will take place on 24 April 2024 and it is hosted by the MCI | The Entrepreneurial School® as part of Compass, a satellite project and flagship for the Ulysseus Alliance R&I agenda and strategy.

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

About this conference

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 (EUAs).

'Beyond Europe' first conference, focused on R&I Internationalisation Strategies for European University Alliances and provided a foundational understanding of the challenges faced by Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in developing their internationalization strategies beyond the borders of Europe.

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



Agenda

Part I: Science Diplomacy for International R&I Collaboration

10:00 AM – 10:05 AM: Opening Session (5 minutes)

- Welcome and Introduction
- Overview of the Conference
- Introduction of Speakers

10:05 AM – 10:15 AM: Session 1 Topic: Leveraging Science Diplomacy for International R&I Collaboration

Charlotte Rungius

Moderator: Saranne Comel

10:15 AM – 11:05 AM: Panel discussion (50 minutes)

- Alicia Perez-Porro
- Charlotte Rungius
- Luciana Radut-Gaghi
- Siegfried Walch

Moderator facilitates a discussion with panellists + selects and poses questions to panelist from audience

On this session



Science diplomacy emerges as a pivotal force in bolstering collaborative relationships between European University Alliances (HEI) and global partners beyond the European Union (EU) boundaries, particularly in the domain of research and innovation (R&I).

This panel discussion explores the multifaceted role of science diplomacy in fostering fruitful partnerships between European HEIs and international stakeholders, shedding light on its diverse contributions and implications.

Part II: Joining a European Universities Alliance (HEI) as an R&I Partner: Good practices from EUIs

11:05 AM – 11:10 AM: Opening Session (5 minutes)

- Introduction of Speakers

11:10 AM – 11:25 AM: Session 2 Topic: Unlocking Innovation: Best Practices for International Partnerships with European Universities Alliances (HEI) (15 minutes)

Moderator: Natacha Estèves

Speakers:

- Alessandra Fiorio Pla (UNITA)
- Francisco do Adro (UNITA)

11:25 AM – 12:15 PM: Q&A Session (50 minutes)

- Selma Porobic (AURORA Alliance)
- Alessandra Fiorio Pla (UNITA)
- Francisco do Adro (UNITA)
- Peter Rosenbaum (EUTOPIA)

Moderator facilitates a discussion with panellists + selects and poses questions to panelist from audience

12:15 AM – 12:55 PM: Break (40 minutes)

On this session



Some European Universities have been working on establishing collaboration with partners outside the EU. Regardless of the objectives and the form this partnership may take, EUIs experience and best practices are invaluable for other alliances that wish to follow a similar strategy. This panel will discuss and reflect on the best practises of European Universities Alliances (HEI) when establishing partnership outside the EU.

Part III: Joining the Ulyseus Alliance: Lessons for Laval & Danang/DNIIT

12:55 PM – 13:00 PM: Introduction to Part II (5 minutes)

- Recap of Part I
- Introduction of Part II Speakers

13:00 PM – 14:15 PM: Global Perspectives: Learnings from Ulyseus Alliance for Laval & Danang/DNIIT Engagement (75 minutes)

Moderator: Siegfried Walch

Speakers:

- Prof. Fabien Ferrero (Université Côte d'Azur)
- Prof. Stéphane Ngo Mai (Ulyseus – Université Côte d'Azur)
- Vice Rector Carmen Vargas (Ulyseus – University of Seville)
- Prof. Bui Va Ga (University of Da Nang | DNITT)
- Ms. Ho Long Ngoc (DNIIT) (Vietnam)
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Anh Thu (DNIIT) (Vietnam)
- Vice President Le Quang Son (Da Nang)
- Vice Rector François Gélinau (Université Laval)

14:15 PM – 14:25 PM: Q&A Session (10 minutes)

- Moderator facilitates a discussion with panellists + selects and poses questions to panelist from audience

14:25 PM – 14:30 PM: Closing Remarks (10 minutes)

- Summary of Key Takeaways
- Thanking Speakers, Participants, and Sponsors
- Announcement of Future Events

On this session



The integration of Danang University/Danang International Institute of Technology (DNIIT) in Vietnam and Université Laval in Canada into the Ulyseus Alliance underscores the alliance's commitment to advancing international collaboration in higher education.

In June 2023, both Danang/DNIIT (Vietnam) and Université Laval signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ulyseus European University Alliance, solidifying their commitment to enhancing international cooperation in education, research and innovation, as well as other collaborative activities.

As of May 2024 Danang, University/DNIIT will become a Strategic Partner in the Ulyseus Alliance, marking a historic milestone as the first non-EU branch of the Ulyseus European University. This achievement is the culmination of a process initiated in January 2022, with the current phase focused on finalizing the terms of their collaboration.

The upcoming panel discussion will delve into the progression of establishing these unprecedented collaborations, as well as shedding light on the significance of partnerships like Danang University/DNIIT and Laval in contributing to Ulyseus' global achievements.

Speakers

Charlotte Rungius



Scientific Project Manager and Researcher – Science Advice, Science Diplomacy and International Affairs Centre for Social Innovation (Austria)

Alícia Pérez-Porro



Scientific Coordinator at Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF) (Spain) and EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups WG3 Expert

Luciana Radut-gaghi



CY Cergy Paris Université (France) and Vice-President of International Relations and Strategic Partnerships

Selma Porobic



Chair FOREU2 Cooperation with Non-EU partners Working Group & Aurora Lead Capacity Development Programme CEE (Czech Republic)

Alessandra Fiorio Pia



Institutional Coordinator for International Mobility at University of Torino (Italy), UNITA Alliance.

Francisco do Adro



Head of UNITA Office Coordinator at the University of Beira Interior (UBI) & UBI NECE researcher (Portugal).

Peter Rosenbaum



Head of International Office at Technische Universität Dresden (Germany)

Fabien Ferrero



Professor of Electronics and Telecommunication; Researcher at Laboratoire d'Electronique, Antennes et Télécommunications & Co-director of the CREMANT, Université Côte d'Azur (France).

Stéphane Ngo Mai



Ulyssus General Innovation Hub Coordinator & Vice President of Strategy and Development at University of Côte d'Azur (France).

Carmen Vargas Macias



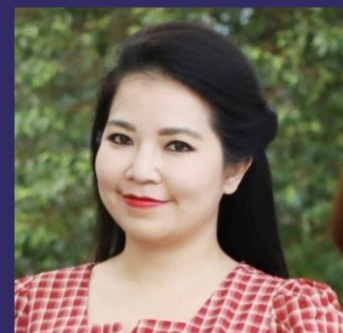
Ulyssus General Coordinator & Vice-Rector of Institutional Projection and Internationalization of the University of Seville (Spain).

Bui Va Ga



Former Deputy Minister of Education and Training and Former Director of University of Danang (Vietnam).

Ho Long NGoc



Danang International Institute of Technology (DNIIT) and Vice-Director of International Relations Department (Vietnam)

Nguyen Thi Anh Thu



Danang International Institute of Technology (DNIIT) and Vice Director of DNIIT (ULYSSEUS Hub at UD) (Vietnam)

Le Quang Son



Vice President of the University of Danang (UD) in charge of Research and International Cooperation

François Gélinau



Vice-Rector of International Affairs and Sustainable Development of Université Laval (Canada).

Moderators

Saranne Comel



Director of IDEX International and European Program at University of Côte d'Azur (France)

Natacha Estèves



Ulysseus Innovation Hub Manager at MCI | The Entrepreneurial School (Austria)

Siegfried Walch



Head Ulysseus Coordinator & Head of Department & Studies for Non-profit, Social & Health Management at MCI | The Entrepreneurial School (Austria)

4. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: THE COMPASS BEYOND EUROPE ONLINE CONFERENCES

4.3 Ulysseus' International Cooperation Strategy

Ulysseus has formulated a comprehensive International Cooperation Strategy to foster global collaboration in R&I. This strategy guides the alliance's efforts to expand partnerships beyond the European Union (EU) borders, aligning with its mission of promoting excellence and innovation on a global scale. It is particularly highlighted and discussed during the Compass Beyond Europe Online Conferences, where Ulysseus shares insights with experts, scholars, and professionals interested in R&I internationalization.

- **Objective:** The strategy presents a structured approach to international Research and Innovation (R&I) collaboration, aiming to guide Ulysseus in establishing partnerships with institutions outside the EU to advance knowledge and innovation globally.
- **Focus:** Ulysseus emphasizes sharing best practices for fostering partnerships with institutions outside the EU, including joint research initiatives, mobility programs, and funding opportunities through initiatives like Erasmus+.
- **Target Audience:** Tailored for experts, scholars, and professionals involved in R&I internationalization, the strategy aims to engage stakeholders across academia, industry, and policy sectors to create a collaborative ecosystem.

During the Compass Beyond Europe Online Conferences, these key aspects of Ulysseus' International Cooperation Strategy are explored in depth through panel discussions, presentations, and case studies, providing valuable insights for enhancing global engagement strategies. Overall, Ulysseus' International Cooperation Strategy represents a proactive approach to fostering global collaboration in R&I, aiming to address global challenges and advance knowledge and innovation worldwide.

A hand holding a chess piece over a stack of wooden blocks. The background is a teal gradient with a large white arrow pointing upwards and to the right. The chess piece is a white king, and the wooden blocks are stacked in a staircase pattern. The hand is positioned as if about to move the piece.

5. GOOD PRACTICES ON R&I INTERNATIONALIZATION

This section outlines specific good practices that Ulysseus has identified and implemented in its approach to research and innovation (R&I) internationalization. These practices serve as guidelines for other alliances and institutions seeking to expand their global collaborations effectively.

5. GOOD PRACTICES ON R&I INTERNATIONALIZATION

5.1 Key Initiatives for Fostering Global Collaboration

The Ulysseus International Cooperation Programme plays a pivotal role in driving the alliance's vision of excellence in Education, Research, and Innovation (R&I). This strategic blueprint focuses on fostering meaningful engagement and knowledge exchange with global partners, placing a particular emphasis on strategic partnerships such as the collaboration with the University of Da Nang (UD). The programme encompasses a wide range of initiatives that support Ulysseus' mission to expand its global footprint and address pressing international challenges through joint research, mobility programs, and leveraging external funding.

5.1.1 Joint Research Projects: Advancing Global Knowledge Through Collaboration

Ulysseus promotes interdisciplinary research initiatives by bringing together scholars and experts from diverse fields to address key global issues. These joint research projects harness the collective expertise and resources of partner institutions, resulting in impactful research outcomes. By fostering collaboration across borders, Ulysseus ensures that its research efforts contribute to solving complex societal challenges.

Key Practices:

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Researchers from various disciplines and institutions collaborate on global issues, maximizing the use of diverse expertise and fostering innovative solutions.

- **Global Impact:** These research endeavors contribute to groundbreaking discoveries and solutions that positively impact international communities, addressing complex societal challenges.

5. GOOD PRACTICES ON R&I INTERNATIONALIZATION

5.1.2 Student and Faculty Mobility Programs: Cultivating Global Citizenship

Facilitating mobility is central to Ulysseus' internationalization strategy. Through student and faculty exchange programs, Ulysseus provides opportunities for individuals to gain cross-cultural experiences and engage in global learning environments. This focus on mobility enhances academic and research outcomes while fostering intercultural competence and global perspectives.

Key Practices:

- **Cultural Immersion:** Participants are immersed in diverse cultural and academic environments, enriching their personal and professional development.
- **Long-term Networks:** Mobility programs contribute to building sustainable academic and professional relationships that extend beyond the exchange period, fostering ongoing collaboration.

5.1.3 Leveraging Erasmus+ Funding for R&I Projects

One of the core strategies of the Ulysseus International Cooperation Programme is to secure external funding through initiatives like Erasmus+. By leveraging these funding opportunities, Ulysseus enhances its ability to undertake ambitious research projects and promote innovation across its international partnerships.

Key Practices:

- **Strategic Funding Applications:** Ulysseus prioritizes applications for Erasmus+ funding to support joint projects that align with its internationalization goals, ensuring that financial resources are effectively utilized.
- **Sustainable Initiatives:** The funding supports long-term research collaborations and mobility programs, contributing to the overall sustainability of Ulysseus' international efforts..

5. GOOD PRACTICES ON R&I INTERNATIONALIZATION

5.2 Best Practices for Internationalization: Lessons from Ulysseus

The Ulysseus International Cooperation Programme offers valuable lessons and best practices that can be adopted by other alliances and institutions aiming to enhance their R&I internationalization strategies. The partnership with the University of Da Nang serves as a model for establishing strong, equitable, and transparent global collaborations that yield lasting outcomes.

5.2.1 Capacity Building and Talent Development

Through its international cooperation efforts, Ulysseus places significant emphasis on capacity building and talent development. This ensures that partner institutions and individuals possess the necessary resources, skills, and support to thrive in a global R&I environment.

Key Practices:

- **Capacity Enhancement:** Ulysseus implements training and development initiatives designed to equip researchers and institutions with essential skills and tools for effective international collaboration.
- **Talent Nurturing:** The alliance actively identifies and cultivates talent within both Ulysseus and its partners, creating a pipeline of skilled individuals ready for future collaborative endeavors.

5.2.2 Addressing Global Challenges Through Collaboration

By forming strategic global partnerships, Ulysseus not only enhances its research capacity but also positions itself to tackle complex global challenges in critical areas such as sustainability, health, and technology. The collaboration with institutions like the University of Da Nang provides a robust foundation for joint efforts in addressing these pressing issues, demonstrating the power of collective action in R&I.

The background is an aerial night view of a city, likely Singapore, featuring a river, a bridge, and illuminated buildings. Overlaid on this is a teal-colored network diagram consisting of glowing nodes and connecting lines, with a large teal arrow pointing upwards and another pointing downwards, suggesting a global or interconnected network.

6. CONCLUSION: BUILDING A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR R&I

6. CONCLUSION: BUILDING A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR R&I

This concluding section reaffirms Ulysseus' commitment to expanding international collaboration through strategic partnerships in Education, Research, and Innovation (ERI). The good practices outlined in this report reflect Ulysseus' proactive approach to fostering global collaborations that enhance its capacity to address pressing challenges in today's interconnected world.

The Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the University of Da Nang and the University of Laval mark key steps in building a diverse global network of R&I partners. These agreements not only facilitate joint research initiatives and student and faculty mobility but also leverage funding opportunities such as Erasmus+, thereby establishing a strong foundation for innovation and knowledge exchange across regions.

The successful integration of the University of Montenegro exemplifies Ulysseus' ability to create meaningful global collaborations that drive sustainability and address complex societal challenges. As Ulysseus explores the establishment of an international branch, these partnerships highlight its commitment to enhancing its global presence.

In summary, Ulysseus remains focused on driving innovation and sustainability, positioning itself as a leader in the international R&I landscape while promoting best practices that other alliances can adopt to strengthen their own internationalization efforts.



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