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# The Sunrise Alliance Newsletter



[www.sunrise-alliance.eu](http://www.sunrise-alliance.eu)



This edition of the SUNRISE newsletter has been contributed by UITM in Rzeszow (University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow).

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## Useful Links & Stay Connected



Sunrise Alliance



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Sunrise Alliance



[SunRiseAlliance](https://twitter.com/SunRiseAlliance)



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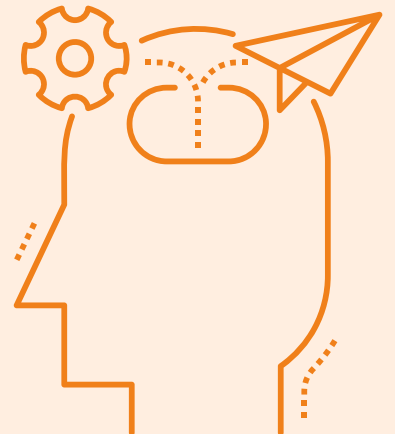
The **SUNRISE Alliance** provides a voice to smaller-sized universities in non-metropolitan areas, aligned to European values.



# The mission of Sunrise

## Yes, we did it!

We are proud to announce that the SUNRISE Alliance has been selected for funding by the European Commission and has become a member of a family of 64 European Universities. We are happy to continue our journey together.





The Alliance is dedicated to enhancing the strategic role of these universities in fostering the development and prosperity of regional economies and societies.

## Imagine if...

...there was a **dynamic network of agile**, efficient smaller-sized universities across different European regions that serve as game-changers and role models for their staff and students, the surrounding communities and the development of innovative ecosystems.



Based on this bold vision, the Smaller Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution (SUNRISE) sets out to promote impactful changes in rural, remote, maritime... areas:

# Driving Knowledge and Regional Innovation

Based on this bold vision, the Smaller Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution (SUNRISE) sets out to promote impactful changes in rural, remote, maritime... areas:



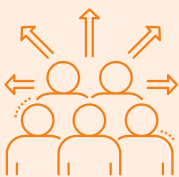
## STAFF AS KNOWLEDGE AMBASSADORS

To motivate and equip university staff to act as ambassadors for knowledge development with institutional and associated partners and by actively including students;



## EDUCATING FUTURE PROBLEM-SOLVERS

To facilitate the new generations of students to become committed, responsible, and responsive professionals and citizens. Students, professionals and citizens are conscious of the positive or negative impact of their decisions and actions. We aim to educate future problem-solvers dedicated to promoting human welfare;



## SUNRISE NETWORK COLLABORATION

To enable the universities of the SUNRISE network to connect, through approaches to complementarity and by developing new interdisciplinary links;



## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS FOR REGIONS

Establish connections with other EU and non-EU regions, bringing the world to our regions;



## EMPOWERING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

To empower communities within the regional innovation ecosystems where these universities are immersed, embedding European values with democracy at the core of all actions;



## TRIPLE TRANSITION SOLUTION

To provide effective regional solutions to boost the Triple Transition for greener, more digital and social living.

# Discover the **SUNRISE** Partner Countries

The SUNRISE project unites leading universities from across Europe, forming a strong alliance dedicated to driving innovation, sustainability, and knowledge exchange. This unique collaboration spans ten European countries, bringing together institutions with diverse expertise and a shared vision for a brighter future.

By fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and engaging with regional communities, SUNRISE aims to empower students, researchers, and professionals to tackle global challenges and contribute to the development of resilient, inclusive societies.



## The **SUNRISE** network includes the following partner universities:

**GERMANY** TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT ILMENAU

**ITALY** FREE UNIVERSITY OF BOZEN-BOLZANO

**POLAND** UNIVERSITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT IN RZESZOW

**FRANCE** UNIVERSITÉ DE TECHNOLOGIE DE COMPIÈGNE

**CYPRUS** EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CYPRUS

**SWEDEN** MÄLARDALEN UNIVERSITY

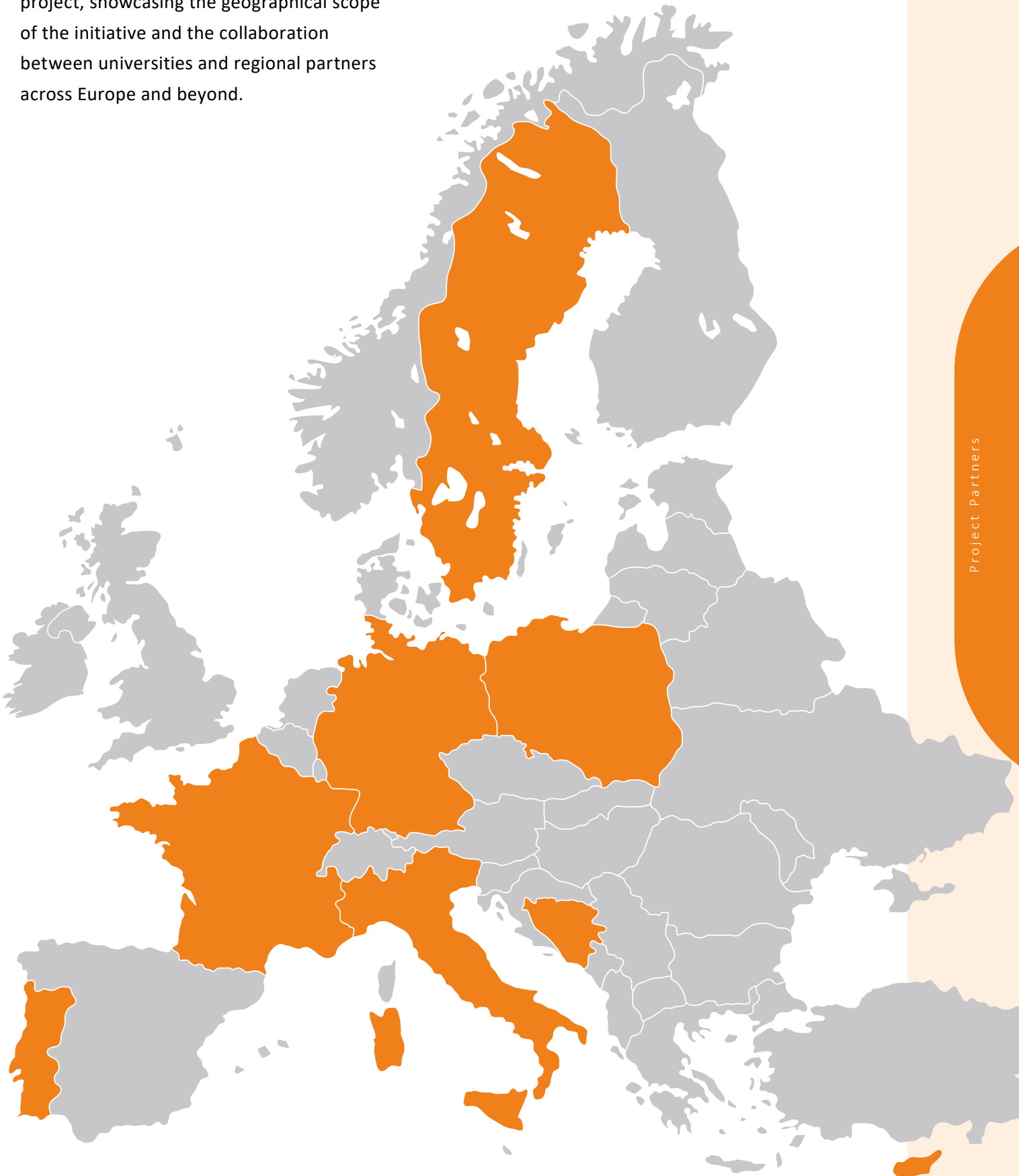
**ITALY** UNIVERSITÀ POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA** "DŽEMAL BIJEDIĆ" UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR

**PORTUGAL** POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF VIANA DO CASTELO

# Project Countries Map

This map highlights the countries participating in the SUNRISE Alliance project, showcasing the geographical scope of the initiative and the collaboration between universities and regional partners across Europe and beyond.







 **Germany, Ilmenau**

# Technische Universität Ilmenau

*Engineering for a Sustainable Future*



**Technische Universität Ilmenau is a leading research university known for its innovative spirit, interdisciplinary focus, and welcoming campus environment.**

With a strong emphasis on engineering, information technology, economic sciences, media, mathematics, and natural sciences, TU Ilmenau conducts cutting-edge research in areas such as functional materials and technologies, intelligent sensing and precision metrology, and complex systems and data-intensive engineering. Leveraging its unique infrastructure, the university leads innovations in energy systems, autonomous technologies, life sciences, and cutting-edge production fields including nanopositioning, nanometrology, and green electronics.

It is consistently recognized as one of Germany's most patent-rich institutions and ranks among the top for third-party funding in engineering sciences, reflecting its status as a regional and global leader in research and development with an impressive network of over 250 spin-offs since 1990.

Students can choose from a wide range of future and sustainability-oriented bachelor's and master's programs characterized by their strong practical orientation and integration of research from the start. They benefit from modern facilities, personalized support, and opportunities to work on interdisciplinary projects in collaboration with industry, ensuring excellent career prospects both nationally and internationally.

The vibrant campus life is enriched by students from over 100 nations, who actively contribute to the university's unique cultural scene.

## LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology
- Department of Computer Science and Automation
- Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Department of Economic Sciences and Media

## NUMBER OF STUDENTS

APPROX. 4 200

## NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

APPROX. 2 000



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 **Italy**, Bozen – Bolzano

# Libera Università di Bolzano

## Freie Universität Bozen

### Free University of Bozen-Bolzano



*Open your mind, go trilingual!*

**The Free University of Bozen-Bolzano is located in South Tyrol, one of the most fascinating European regions, at the crossroads between the German-speaking and Italian economies and cultures**

Its trilingualism in teaching and research, its high level of internationalisation as well as an ideal study environment guaranteed by its excellent facilities are some of the reasons why unibz regularly reaches top positions in national and international rankings.

In national rankings, our university reaches top positions every year.

In 2023, for the seventh consecutive year, the Italian research centre for social studies Censis has ranked our university as number one among smaller private universities (less than 5,000 students).

We rank high in international rankings too, especially under the categories 'internationalisation', 'student satisfaction' and 'citations'.

#### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Economics and Management
- Faculty of Engineering
- Faculty of Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences
- Faculty of Design and Art

#### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

APPROX. 4 300

#### NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

APPROX. 490



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 **Poland**, Rzeszów

## Wyższa Szkoła Informatyki i Zarządzania w Rzeszowie

*Create Your Life*



**UNIVERSITY of INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT**  
in Rzeszow, POLAND

**The University of Information Technology and Management (UITM) in Rzeszów, Poland, is a non-public institution established in 1996 and recognized among the leading private universities in the country.**

It offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs across four faculties: Management, Applied Computer Science, Media and Social Communication, and Medical Sciences.

The university hosts approximately 5,000 students, including over 1,500 international students from more than 30 countries.

With a commitment to practical, career-oriented education, UITM provides access to 45 specialized laboratories and benefits from the expertise of over 400 academic staff, including international faculty.

Its two campuses in Rzeszów and Kielnarowa foster a dynamic and inclusive learning environment. UITM maintains over 50 Erasmus+ partnerships, supporting academic mobility and international co-operation.

The university's strategic emphasis on innovation, digital competencies, and interdisciplinary collaboration further enhances its academic profile and graduate employability.

### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- College of Management
- College of Applied Information Technology
- College of Medicine
- College of Media and Social Communication

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

APPROX. 4 800

### NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

APPROX. 1 500



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 **France**, Compiègne

## Université de Technologie de Compiègne



*Donnons un sens à l'innovation / Lending meaning to innovation*

**UTC is both a French national university and an engineering school, with autonomous training and pedagogy and an innovation-intensive, interdisciplinary technological research program.**

UTC produces graduates (engineers, Master's degree, PhDs) capable of taking into account the interactions of technologies with Mankind and Society at large and of evolving in a world-scale competitive environment, with the aim of complying with sustainable development policies.

The UTC lecturers, research scientists and engineers "lend meaning to innovation", enabling the emergence of new axes underpinning this concept, introducing entrepreneurship principles in the heart of their concerns.

### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- Computer science
- Mechanical engineering
- Biomechanics and bioengineering
- Cellular and enzyme engineering
- Urban systems engineering
- Chemical engineering
- Humanities applied to research

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

4 400



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Cyprus, Nicosia



Germany, Frankfurt

## European University Cyprus



European  
University Cyprus

*Empowering Greatness!*

**European University Cyprus (EUC) has a reputation for quality education with high graduate employability and has been recognized for its investment in high-tech innovation and engagement with industry and society.**

Over the last decade, the university has fostered a culture of modernization that has resulted in levels of growth that have exceeded all expectations, upgrading the scope and quality of university education in Cyprus, and defining a clear international orientation for both the university and the country. European University Cyprus is part of Galileo Global Education, Europe's largest education group that provides education to over 300,000 students through its network of 54 institutions around the world. Today, European University Cyprus boasts a student enrolment of over **12,250 students** from **80 different nationalities**, highlighting its vibrant international and multicultural community.

European University Cyprus has introduced state-of-the-art technology and boosted the country's health sector through the establishment of the most advanced School of Medicine in the region. With the launch of the 1st Dentistry program in the country, and the new Veterinary Medicine Degree, the EUC offers a comprehensive selection of studies in the fields of Medicine and Health Sciences and attracts academics and students from around the globe. Following the success of the medical program, EUC established the School of Medicine—Frankfurt Branch in 2022.

QS Top Universities (QS Stars University Ratings 2024), has ranked European University Cyprus as a 'Five Stars' institution for its overall standing and performance. Additionally, EUC has received five stars for its performance in the areas of **teaching, employability, global engagement, online learning, diversity/equity/inclusion**, as well as the **MD Medicine** for the competitiveness and strength of the program. European University Cyprus stands among the **801+ world's top universities** in the respected **Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings**. Moreover, Times Higher Education (THE) has ranked European University Cyprus among the **top 501+ universities** globally in the **World University Rankings by Subject 2025 for Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Sciences**.

### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- School of Medicine
- School of Dentistry
- School of Veterinary Medicine
- School of Humanities, Social and Education Sciences
- School of Sciences
- School of Law
- School of Business Administration

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

12 250

### NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

7 450



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 **Sweden**, Västerås and Eskilstuna

## Mälardalens universitet

*You decide who to become!*

**Mälardalen University (Swedish: Mälardalens universitet), or MDU, is a modern Swedish university with campuses in Västerås and Eskilstuna.**

Home to 19,000 students and approximately 1,000 employees - including 91 professors, 504 teachers, and 244 doctoral students - MDU plays a vital role in Swedish higher education. The university holds the distinction of being the world's first environmentally certified school under the international ISO 14001 standard, reflecting its strong commitment to sustainability.

MDU offers a diverse range of undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, health sciences, business, education, and the humanities. Strong ties with regional and international industries ensure that its programs remain practically oriented and aligned with the evolving demands of the global job market.

Research at MDU addresses critical societal challenges, including sustainability, innovation, energy, digitalisation, and health. The university collaborates closely with businesses and public organisations to transform academic discoveries into real-world solutions, driving advancements in technology, healthcare, and social systems.

Through its dedication to knowledge, creativity, and societal impact, MDU continues to shape a brighter and more sustainable future for both the region and the world.



### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- School of Business, Society and Engineering
- School of Education, Culture and Communication
- School of Health, Care and Social Welfare
- School of Innovation, Design and Engineering

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

19 000

### NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

500



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 Italy, Ancona

## Università Politecnica delle Marche



UNIVERSITÀ  
POLITECNICA  
DELLE MARCHE

**The Università Politecnica delle Marche (UNIVPM), established in 1969, is a prominent public university located in Ancona, Italy.**

It offers a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate programs across five faculties: Agriculture, Economics, Engineering, Medicine and Surgery, and Sciences. With a student body of approximately 17,500, including 16,400 undergraduates, 1,000 postgraduates, and 400 doctoral candidates, UNIVPM is supported by a dedicated academic staff of around 710 members and 560 administrative personnel. The university is committed to internationalization, offering several courses taught entirely in English, particularly in the fields of Agriculture, Economics, Engineering, Medicine, and Science. International students benefit from services such as free Italian language courses, scholarships, and comprehensive support from university staff and student associations. UNIVPM has received recognition for its commitment to research excellence. On August 30, 2024, the European Commission awarded the university the "HR Excellence in Research" certification, acknowledging its efforts in promoting human resource management policies aligned with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers. In global university rankings, UNIVPM is placed in the 601–800 band in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025, reflecting its growing reputation in the international academic community. Times Higher Education (THE). Situated in the picturesque Marche region, UNIVPM provides a conducive environment for academic pursuits, fostering a blend of cultural experiences and academic excellence. The university's commitment to quality education, research, and international collaboration makes it a significant institution in Italy's higher education landscape.

### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- Agriculture
- Economics
- Engineering
- Medicine and Surgery
- Sciences

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

17 500



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 **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mostar**

## Univerzitet “Džemal Bijedić” u Mostaru



*Mi gradimo budućnost, pridružite nam se / We are shaping the future, join us*

**Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar was founded in 1977 as one of the pillars of the development of the Herzegovina region.**

With 4000 students, 36 undergraduate programmes, 26 graduate programmes, 5 third cycle programmes, and 1 integrated undergraduate and graduate study programme and 3 short cycle programmes. UNMO research interests, and capacities include civil, mechanical engineering, renewable energy, law, economics, tourism, agriculture, humanities, languages, biology, chemistry, health care, pharmacy, and IT. UNMO mission is to organize a wide spectre of different educational processes and carry out theoretical, applied, and developmental scientific and research work and become one of the leaders in the education of young experts necessary for the development of the economy and society and to improve cultural and social development of the region and the country. Our vision anticipates striving to become a flexible, functional, and socially responsible higher education institution in the region recognized by its modern study programmes in all study cycles, opened to cooperation, internationalisation, and oriented towards quality. As a project-oriented higher education institution aiming at a wide scope of goals, from scientific to socially oriented, at this moment, UNMO is implementing 11 CBHE Erasmus+ projects and 51 Erasmus+ ICMs. We are also active in DAAD, USAID, IPA, FP, CEEPUS, and Mevlana exchange programme, H2020, COST, EUREKA. These projects have increased the international dimension of the University and raised awareness in participation in different programme schemes. UNMO's goal is to establish relations based on trust that will be the basis for upgrading and improving the existing cooperation to reach the broad objective of increasing the number of our international ties and creating the network of academic excellence.

### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Civil Engineering
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Faculty of Education
- Agromediterranean Faculty
- Faculty of Information Technologies
- University Study Programme of Tourism
- University Study Programme of Business Informatics
- University Study Programme of Pharmacy
- University Study Programme of Interior Design
- University Study Programme of Health Care

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

4 000



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 **Portugal**, Viana do Castelo

## Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo

**ipvc** Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo

*O teu ponto de partida / Your starting point*

**The Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo (IPVC) is located in the Alto Minho region, north-west Portugal, an area of 2,210 km<sup>2</sup> with about 250,000 inhabitants, known for its diverse eco-systems.**

IPVC offers 27 bachelor's degrees, 28 master's programmes, 27 technical and higher professional courses, and several postgraduate options, across its six schools: Education, Agriculture, Technology and Management, Business Sciences, Health, and Sports and Leisure.

Learning at IPVC is highly interactive, with real-world case studies in collaboration with businesses and institutions, fostering a deeper understanding of social and cultural dynamics. Innovative methodologies emphasise project-based learning, research, teamwork, ethics, and critical thinking.

IPVC actively engages with the community and contributes to regional development. It is a centre for scientific and technological training, supporting student employability and applied research.

Soon, new Innovation Centres will be established on the campuses in Viana do Castelo and Ponte de Lima, focusing respectively on the blue economy (ocean renewable energy, marine food technologies, underwater robotics) and agri-food systems, resource management, sustainability, eco-innovation, and rural development, reinforcing IPVC's commitment to driving innovation and building the future.

### LIST OF FACULTIES / SCHOOLS / DEPARTMENTS

- Agrarian School
- School of Education
- Health School
- Business School
- Management and Technology School
- Sports and Leisure School

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

APPROX. 4 900



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# Global cooperation for excellence and regional development: **European university alliance** **SUNRISE launched**



A joint European campus that offers completely new opportunities for cross-border study and interdisciplinary research and promotes sustainable development and prosperity in the region: This is the vision of the European university alliance SUNRISE - for “Smaller (strategic) Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution” - which unites nine universities from all parts of Europe and is coordinated by TU Ilmenau. On January 14, the presidents, academic leaders and students of all participating universities came together at the university to celebrate the official start of the joint journey together with Thuringia’s Minister of Education, Science and Culture Christian Tischner and the university community.



From Sweden in the north to Cyprus in the south-east to Portugal in the far west - and Ilmenau in the middle: The partners of the SUNRISE alliance come from eight European countries in all parts of Europe. All universities focus on the STEM disciplines of mathematics, computer science, natural sciences and technology and are similar in size and location in non-metropolitan areas: “All universities play an important role for these regions,” emphasized host Prof. Kai-Uwe Sattler, President of TU Ilmenau, in his opening speech.

Through intensive interdisciplinary exchange and strategic cooperation, the university president said, not only do the universities themselves want to reposition themselves in terms of study, teach-







ing, research and innovation, but also strengthen economic development in the regions and help shape a social, green and digital society - building on European values: "Promoting precisely these values is all the more important in times when right-wing populists and extremists are gaining more and more influence in Europe, endangering our values of freedom and democracy."

#### Key initiative for the regions

"SUNRISE is characterized by its work in and for the regions as an alliance of smaller universities," explained Christian Tischner, Thuringian Minister of Education, Science and Culture, at the event: "SUNRISE has the great opportunity to act as a driver of innovation in the regions. This is also an invaluable asset in terms of recruiting and retaining skilled workers. As Thuringia's Science Minister, I am proud that two of the only 64 university alliances in Europe are coordinated by Thuringian universities. The TU Ilmenau is taking on responsibility in an important European university network. This is a huge success for Thuringia."

#### Educating a new generation of responsible students

Studying in Ilmenau and taking courses in Sweden or Bosnia-Herzegovina, completing a multilingual double degree in Ilmenau and Italy, jointly developing innovations for a sustainable future on virtually connected research platforms and training a new generation of students to become responsible professionals and members of society who are committed to the well-being of their fellow human beings: To ensure that this vision becomes a reality as soon as possible, the SUNRISE committees and working groups came together immediately after the opening ceremony and on the following day to begin their joint work - including the International Student Council made up of students and doctoral candidates from all universities.

During a tour of the university's laboratories, scientists also explored opportunities for collaboration on topics such as sustainable mobility, green electronics, precision measurement technology and human-machine interaction, for which TU Ilmenau can not only offer its expertise, but also an excellent infrastructure with the Center for Micro and Nanotechnologies (ZMN), the Thuringian Energy Research Institute (ThEFI) and the Thuringian Center for Innovation and Mobility (ThIMo), amongst others.

But not just the scientists: All staff members and 62,500 students of the Alliance, each and every one of them, is invited and should contribute to making the SUNRISE vision a reality: global collaboration for excellence and real change. This was the message and common understanding of the SUNRISE opening.



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TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT  
ILMENAU



  
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TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT  
in Rzeszow, POLAND

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 European  
University Cyprus

  
Mälardalens  
universitet

 UNIVERSITÀ  
POLITECNICA  
DELLE MARCHE

 UNIVERZITET  
“DŽEMAL BIJEDIĆ”  
U MOSTARU

 Instituto Politécnico  
de Viana do Castelo

# SUN RISE

SMALLER (STRATEGIC) UNIVERSITIES  
NETWORK FOR REGIONAL INNOVATIVE  
AND SUSTAINABLE EVOLUTION



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