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The Sunrise Alliance Newsletter



www.sunrise-alliance.eu



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(Université de Technologie de Compiègne).

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Useful Links & Stay Connected



Sunrise Alliance



[sunrise.alliance](https://www.instagram.com/sunrise.alliance)



[SUNRISE Alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sunrise-alliance)



Sunrise Alliance



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



sunrise-alliance.eu

SUNRISE Alliance Summit at UTC:

Three Days of Collaboration and Action

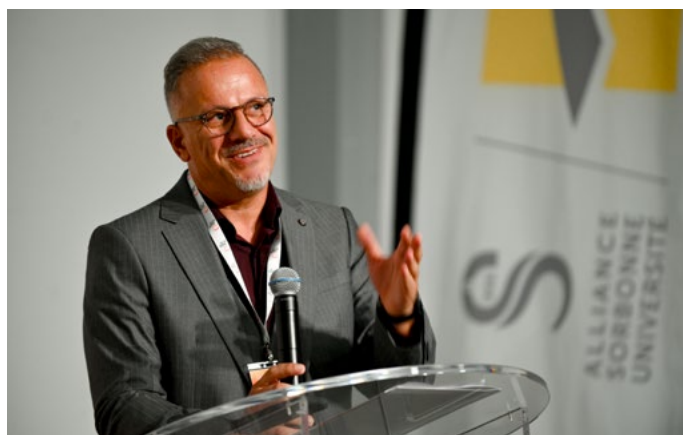


From September 22 to 24, the Université de Technologie de Compiègne (UTC) hosted the very first SUNRISE European Summit, bringing together our nine partner universities of the SUNRISE Alliance, along with academic, industrial, and political leaders.



TOGETHER, through the SUNRISE Alliance we are committed to tackling tomorrow's greatest challenges—ecological, digital, and societal transitions by developing innovative study programs, fostering student mobility, and advancing collaborative research.

Over the course of three dynamic days filled with conferences, workshops, competitions, and student pitches, the Summit became a hub of exchange and creativity. A wealth of constructive ideas and fresh perspectives emerged, charting a promising and ambitious path forward for this young alliance.





SUNRISE represents an opportunity for growth & deep learning. As I said, its like a new horizon that empowers us to dream bigger (...) & the project gives us the opportunity, the small universities by working together, they can be decisive players in the future of education of innovation & regional development of their countries.

“



Student Focus

A full working day focused on student voices and engagement. Warm welcome remarks from UTC Rector Claire Rossi. Joanna Daaboul and Loizos Symeou (WP3 leaders) set the tone with a smooth and inspiring opening ceremony.

BEST PRACTICE - PUVC

Best practices presented by Ana-Teresa Oliveira on the creative methods for involving students and colleagues in university life.

How to engage the academic community, students & colleagues.



Why this is a good practice?

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Highly replicable in institutions (even) with limited human resources.
- Sustainable, based only on communication tools.
- Effective, with significant results in a short period of time.
- People-centred, directly involving course coordinators and teaching staff.

STUDENT MOBILITY

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The institutional diversity of the SUNRISE Alliance is simultaneously our greatest challenge and our greatest opportunity. By understanding and leveraging these differences, we can create a truly complementary network that better serves the varied needs of our students.

STUDENT SURVEY SHOWCASE

Presented by Project Managers Mariana Oliveira from PUVC & Sebastien Hübner from TUIL, they shared valuable insight into student expectations and perceptions within the alliance.



Student LEAP Competition Presentations



Ten teams presented their innovative projects through pitches followed by a Q&A session. A moment to discover creativity in action... and vote for our favorite projects!



CONGRATULATIONS to the winners from Challenge 3: Digital Transition, Group 1. Théo Pereira De Araujo, UTC, Ebin Ephrem Elavathingal, MDU and Sumit Sharma, TUIL.

LEAP Posters

G.A.I.A.
Global AI for Immersive Awareness

Virtual Polluted Scenarios will allow students to develop new strategies on how to clean different kinds of natural environments preserving fauna, flora, water soil and air quality!

Act Green, Think Clean

The course will be enrolled within one semester, this will contain video classes, reading sections, mini exams, virtual environment cleanup and a final report.

Explore Enviroments

Virtual Worlds can be explored within the G.A.I.A. application. Clean up environments from: Oil, Methane, Carbon Dioxide, Plastic and Microplastic and many others.

Create New Solutions

Learn how biological technologies such as composting, anaerobic digestion, water purification processes and bioremediation turn waste & pollution into clean water, energy and sustainable outcomes.

Recommended Schedule (Months)

1. First impressions with app, word analysis, and discover Gaia AI;
2. Start Academy (1st and 2nd module);
3. Define an action plan and apply the first methodologies;
4. Document progress. Begin writing the final report and conclude the Gaia Academy;
5. Stabilize Pollution Levels;
6. Final Report delivery.

ipvc Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo

SUN RISE

UTC

JOIN THE GREEN HORIZON SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Engage in problem-based learning while building community through meaningful exchanges and sustainability initiatives.

sunrise mobility project
be part of the change
contact your university to find out more

SOCIAL INNOVATION & TRANSITION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Addressing demographic changes, digitalization, technological transformations, climate change, and globalization impacts on modern European societies.

METHODOLOGY & APPROACH

- Student-Led Learning (Freire Pedagogy)
- Multicultural Team Structure
- Challenge-Based Learning
- AI-Assisted Solution Development
- Fluid Curriculum Design



IMPLEMENTATION & PLATFORM

Fully online course with an option for Summer/Winter School Program extension - Physical meeting for course graduates to connect, discuss, and design future solutions.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Haris Sunje, UNMO, Bosnia & Herzegovina
Simon Lindblom - MDU, Sweden
Karen Kayiliza - WSZ, Poland

FACILITATOR:

Francesca Bealchini - UNIVPM, Italy

I DARE YOU

THE SUMMER CAMP THAT DARES YOU TO LEVEL UP

About the Program

An international summer school where students co-create educational games to explore AI, ethics, and digital creativity.

Features

Game-based & international
Blended onsite & online
Ethical & environmental focus
Student co-creation

Learning Goals

Boost digital skills
Collaborate across borders
Create games
Explore ethics & sustainability

Program Flow

Preparation → Play → Exchange

Join us in shaping the future of learning.

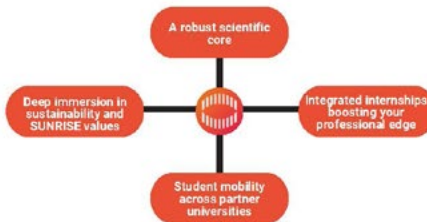
Digital Transition Group 2
IDU



Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Digital Transformation

Training responsible digital innovators: combining advanced technology with ethical and societal awareness.

- A 360° Digital Transition Pathway, Built to bring Academics and Industry closer together.
- A complete 2+2 -year Journey covering all key digital fields, with the flexibility to specialize or stay generalist.
- Enhanced by mobility and internships.
- A shared degree right after high school creates strong bonds between schools.
- Boosts the visibility of the Alliance, and offers students a unique chance to explore Europe from the very start.
- Hands-on curriculum = job-ready graduates.
- No overqualification, the right mix of theory and real-world experience—especially in tech. Prepared for advanced studies (Master, PhD) in the Sunrise Alliance.



3 Specializations

Smart Cities & Public Innovation

Transforming cities to become more sustainable, connected, and inclusive.

- Digital solutions for mobility, energy, and public services.
- Social innovation and citizen co-design.
- Management of smart urban projects.
- 📌 Careers: digital urban planner, smart city consultant, e-government project manager.

Smart Manufacturing & Industry 5.0

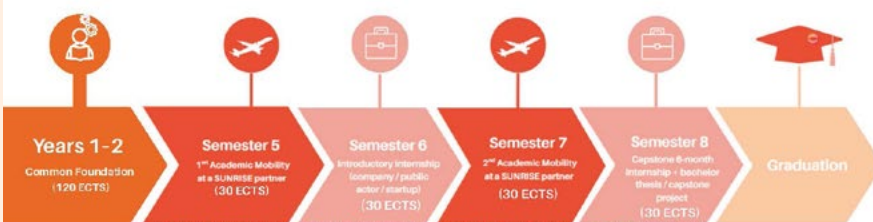
Combining advanced technologies and sustainability to reinvent industry.

- IoT, robotics, additive manufacturing, applied data science.
- Human-centered industrial systems solutions.
- Transition to Industry 5.0: more resilient, personalized, and responsible.
- 📌 Careers: Industry 5.0 engineer, smart factory digitalization manager, industrial cybersecurity expert.

Digital Entrepreneurship & Tech4Good

Building digital solutions with a positive impact.

- Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and design thinking.
- Launching and scaling digital startups.
- Technologies for the common good (health, inclusion, environment).
- 📌 Careers: digital entrepreneur, business developer, innovation project manager, intrapreneur in large companies.



THINK FOR THE FUTURE

- ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION -

SUMMER SCHOOL
3 weeks – 3 ECTS

MOBILITY

In person
Different University each year among the SUNRISE Alliance

Online
Alternative option to ensure flexibility and inclusivity

3 MODULES

- 1 Climate Action Lab**
Designing local solutions for a global challenge
- 2 ESG and Sustainable Development**
A multidisciplinary perspective
- 3 Artificial Intelligence and Environmental Change**
Technologies for a sustainable future

SKILLS

- Project Management
- Communication
- Environmental Transition knowledge
- Problem solving
- AI ethics
- ESG
- Software Application AI
- Technical systems
- Critic analysis

METHODS AND TOOLS

- Projects
- Problem-based approach
- Participatory and interactive lectures
- Case studies
- Softwares and specialized application (ressource management)
- Slideshow
- Web ressources
- Online platform

LEAP LEARNING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLATFORM

Aim Abazović - Vidana Kubat - Marie Maly

SUNRISE SUNRISE ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

LEARNING TO UNLEARN

MINOR IN SOCIAL TRANSITION AND JUSTICE

SOCIAL TRANSITION - GROUP 2

SUNRISE SUNRISE ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary Minor is a 6-month, 30 ECTS program designed for students from all academic backgrounds at both Bachelor and Master levels. Its central aim is to equip future professionals with the critical, emotional, and practical tools needed to understand and challenge structural inequalities in contemporary society.

MODULES

- M1 GENDER CRITICAL AWARENESS** 5 ECTS
- M2 INTERSECTIONALITY AND SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION** 5 ECTS
- M3 SOCIOEMOTIONAL COMPETENCES AND WELLBEING** 5 ECTS
- M4 LAW AND POLICY** 3 ECTS
- M5 GLOBAL CHALLENGES** 6 ECTS
- M6 ADVOCACY AND TRANSFORMATION** 6 ECTS

MOBILITY

- Blended design: online collaboration (M5) + optional short in-person intensive (M6)
- Pedagogical justification

UNIQUE FEATURES

- Focus on critical pedagogy, intersectional analysis, and emotional intelligence.
- Emphasizes participatory and reflective learning methods, real-world advocacy projects, and co-creation with activists, NGOs, and diverse stakeholders.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY

- Combines insights from social sciences, law, education, health, technology, and cultural studies.
- Encourages cross-disciplinary collaboration, allowing students from any field to apply transformative justice principles in their own professional context.

Sunrise will help us with new industrial partnerships , entrepreneurship which can help researches & students who want to create start-ups with the help of our international universities of SUNRISE.

“

Valentina Espina | UTC France



Our students can use SUNRISE as a gateway to the European job market internships so this is the most expected way for us to take advantage of whatever we develop under the SUNRISE framework

“

Grzegorz Karpiuk | UITM, Poland



UNIVERSITY of INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT
in Rzeszow, POLAND

Reducing Mass Food Waste

Less Waste. More Future.

An international summer school turning evidence into local action across food systems.

SUNRISE ALLIANCE

The infographic features a world map with various food items (apple, banana, tomato, leafy greens) and icons representing different activities. The activities are arranged in a circular flow around the map:

- Mindful Planning (shopping & menus)** 4 hours
- Leftovers (cook & store smart)** 4 hours
- Home Composting (bio-waste valorization)** 2x4 hours
- Education & Campaigns (co-design)** 2x4 hours
- Local Habits Research (field + analysis)** 2x4 hours
- Incentive Systems (models & pilots)** 2x3 hours

Key numbers

- 1.3 billion tonnes of food wasted every year (world)
- ~57 million tonnes in the EU; households ~55%
- 5 days - 8 countries

Social Transition and Active Citizenship Summer School

Summary

- This 3-ECTS summer school module brings together students from different fields to learn how to create fair, inclusive educational experiences.
- Participants collaborate on community-based projects, using interviews and focus groups to understand local needs and then co-design social initiatives (like lessons, workshops, or learning modules).

Key components include:

- Zone of Proximal Collaboration: A facilitated team setting where peers and mentors jointly support the project's development.
- Participatory Research: Interview and focus group sessions with local stakeholders to collect diverse perspectives.
- Analytical Tools: SWOT analysis to map community strengths/weaknesses, and story-based vignettes to explore challenges.
- Themes & Vignettes: Scenarios and discussions focus on inclusion, equity, civic engagement, and systems thinking.

Purpose & Structure

- The summer school is structured as a 3 ECTS blended mobility program (three weeks online + one week on-site) in a summer/winter school format.
- It is open to students from any discipline (e.g. health, education, social work, arts, policy) who are interested in social impact and inclusion.
- The vision is to create a collaborative, interdisciplinary space where students learn how to build inclusive communities through hands-on social design. This design reflects the SUNRISE Alliance's emphasis on fostering collaboration and shared expertise across partner universities.

Credits & Model: 3 ECTS; blended delivery (online modules followed by short on-campus sessions).

Interdisciplinary: Engages students across fields to tackle real-world challenges.

Active Learning: Combines flipped-classroom content with community engagement projects.

Learning Outcomes

Social Justice and Equity: Understand and apply concepts of social justice, equity, and inclusion in educational design.

Participatory Practice: Analyze social structures and engage communities using participatory methods.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Work across disciplines (e.g. social work, policy, arts) to co-create social change solutions.

Real-World Impact: Design and evaluate projects that address actual community needs.

Communication Skills: Communicate effectively across cultural and professional boundaries.

Teaching & Evaluation Instructors: Professors, researchers, postgraduates, and guest speakers (including student participants) facilitate the program.

Mobility Model: Blended (online coursework plus short on-site exchanges across SUNRISE partner campuses), giving students an international classroom experience.

Evaluation: Based on the group project outcome, an individual reflective portfolio, and active participation throughout.

Certification: Participants earn a micro-credential in Interdisciplinary Social Inclusion Practice. This short credential aligns with global recommendations; for example, OECD experts note that micro-credentials should be inclusive and meet the needs of diverse learner projects.

Team Members and Contact:

- Louis Kameya Mohr
- Demetris Maroulis
- Thelma Da Rocha Augusto
- Kyriaki Erotokritou
- Marina Georgiadou

Facilitator: Anton Dignós

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

Master in Impact Management & Strategy

CHALLENGE 4 | TEAM 1
LEAP Sunrise Challenge
SUNRISE ALLIANCE | SEPTEMBER 2025
SOFIA DOUMAZET & MARILYNNE LUNN
CHAPERNEAU

Become a change-maker for a sustainable future

The Master in Impact Management & Strategy

At the SUNRISE Alliance, we offer a unique opportunity to develop your skills in impact management and strategy.

Learning Environment

Active design and Active innovation

The Summer School

Summer School

SUNRISE for research success means that altogether we see our regional needs and we are trying together to develop further our research by taking advantage of a strong network.

Andreas Stylianou | EUC Cyprus
European University Cyprus

Teaching & Student Mobility



Attracting Students to Universities in Rural Areas

Day 2 emphasized collaboration and exchange. Claire Rossi, Director of UTC, and Joanna Daaboul, Director of International Relations, had the pleasure of welcoming Olivier Ginez, Director General of Higher Education and Professional Integration at MESR. His presence and active participation added to the success of the Summit, alongside many other inspiring contributions, including those of: Michelle Bubenicek, Deputy Rector for Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Hauts-de-France, Martine Miquel, representing Xavier Bertrand, President of the Hauts-de-France Region and Pierre Vatin, representing Philippe Marini, President of the Compiègne Urban Area and Mayor of Compiègne.



Alliance Rectors shared concise, concrete best practices from their universities.

The European Alliances Round Table, moderated by Toñi Caro, with participants Donatienne Hissard, Director General of Campus France, Nelly Fesseau, Director of Erasmus+ France and Carla Ruivo, Erasmus+ Portugal Coordinator, contributed to a thought provoking discussion where policy and practice were brought to the same table.

Students stayed in focus through the LEAP Poster Session and online voting, while colleagues opened their doors for research lab tours, and the Board of Rectors met in parallel to align governance and timelines.



We closed with a concise address by Claire Rossi, and then gathered at the Gala Dinner & Cultural Evening at Salle Saint Nicolas, a moment to strengthen connections beyond the conference room.



“Mobility is a very important part of student life – when students go abroad they don’t only study & train abroad but they actually grow as people. Mobility provides confidence, helps them grow in competencies & expand their skills & make them competitive and employable in the global job market

“

Efi Michael | EUC Cyprus
 European University Cyprus



I think that Sunrise can have an important role in staff training because through the opportunities offered by the Alliance we can get to know each other & improve our knowledge & we can know best practices of other universities & improve our internal procedures.

“

Silvia Mangialardo | UNIVPM Ancona



UNIVERSITÀ
POLITECNICA
DELLE MARCHE

Thematic Workshops & Work Package Meetings



Teaching – Creating and Developing International and Diverse, Personalized, and High-Quality Academic Experiences for Students.

The final day was dedicated to rolling up sleeves and driving projects forwards

Six parallel Work Package meetings and the Student Council kicked off the morning.

Later, Thematic sessions turned concepts into concrete steps:

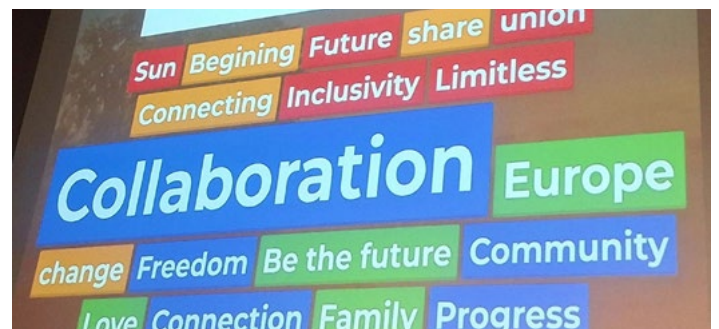


- PhD pathways (dual degrees, mobility, training)
- Industrial partners' perspectives on collaboration
- Joint research submissions and shared calendars
- WP6 × WP2 collaboration on scientific mediation and outreach
- Training sessions for task leaders with Toñi Caro



After a working lunch, the Summit closed with a joint session: SWOT analysis, workshop summaries, and a farewell from the UTC team—setting clear owners and timelines for the road ahead.

The three-day event ended with a cultural visit, wrapping up an inspiring and productive Summit.



Three days, one direction: building stronger, more tailored international learning experiences for universities, students, and regions—together.

Retracing the last 6 months of SUNRISE

Alliance Events



It all began with an idea... envisioning a dynamic network of agile, efficient, smaller-sized universities across diverse European regions—universities that act as catalysts and role models for their staff, students, local communities, and the development of innovative ecosystems. From this bold vision, the Smaller Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution (SUNRISE) was born.

The year 2025 has witnessed remarkable growth in collaboration, from mobility programs and workshops to conferences—and even a three-day summit. Here are some of the highlights:



Staff Mobility: Building Bridges at EUC



Winter School “Energy & Well-being at TUIL & UNIBZ: Erasmus + SUSEE





SUNRISE EGM Ancona



1st Sunrise Science & Research Week EUC



UTC Sunrise Launch Party



UITM Coding Challenge



FIT Coding Challenge Mostar



PUVC International Week





UTC at MDU



Staff Week hosted in Ancona & across the Marche region with UNIVPM



BIP: Sustainability Communication: From Concept to Practice at Tuil



Mostar: Sunrise networking the central event of international cooperation week



Summer School BIP AI & Cybersecurity in Nicosia EUC



Staff Mobility UITM visit UTC





Every sunrise brings a new story. And this one is ours.

Our new film celebrates creativity, collaboration, and the journey behind what we do at Sunrise. It's **a reflection of the moments, people, and ideas that inspire us to keep moving forward** - to explore, to create, and to connect.

Through this project, we wanted to capture not just what we do, but why we do it: **the passion, the teamwork, and the spark that turns vision into reality.**

Take a moment to **watch it on YouTube** and experience the energy that drives us forward every day.

Watch here ►

SUN
RISE




TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT
ILMENAU




UNIVERSITY of INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT
in Rzeszow, POLAND

  utc

 European
University Cyprus


Mälardalens
universitet

 UNIVERSITÀ
POLITECNICA
DELLE MARCHE

 UNIVERZITET
“DŽEMAL BIJEDIĆ”
U MOSTARU

 Instituto Politécnico
de Viana do Castelo

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



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