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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 UTC  
(Université de Technologie de Compiègne).

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## Useful Links & Stay Connected



Sunrise Alliance



sunrise.alliance



SUNRISE Alliance



Sunrise Alliance



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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

Student Focus

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

**Act Green, Think Clean**

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!

**Explore Environments**  
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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **SUNRISE** SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITIES NETWORK FOR INNOVATION AND EDUCATION **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 Kaylizo - WSI2, Poland

**FACILITATOR:**  
Francesca Beolchini - 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 educational games  
Explore ethics & sustainability

**Program Flow**  
Preparation → Play → Exchange

**Join us in shaping the future of learning.**

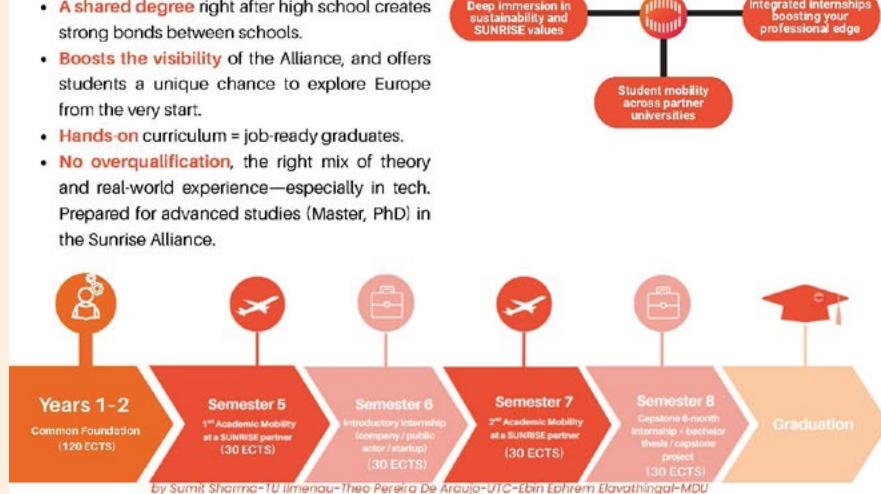
Digital Transitions Group - **IDU**

**SUNRISE** SMALLER STRATEGIC UNIVERSITIES NETWORK FOR REGIONAL INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE EVOLUTION

## 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.



Years 1-2: Common Foundation (120 ECTS)

Semester 5: 1<sup>st</sup> Academic Mobility at a SUNRISE partner (30 ECTS)

Semester 6: Introductory Internship (Industry / public administration) (30 ECTS)

Semester 7: 2<sup>nd</sup> Academic Mobility at a SUNRISE partner (30 ECTS)

Semester 8: Capstone 6-month Internship + bachelor thesis / capstone project (30 ECTS)

Graduation

by Sumit Sharma-TU Ilmenau-Theo Pereira De Araujo-UTC-Ebin Ephrem Elavathangal-MDU

### 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



**SKILLS**



**METHODS AND TOOLS**

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

**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

**SOCIAL TRANSITION - GROUP 2**

# LEARNING TO UNLEARN

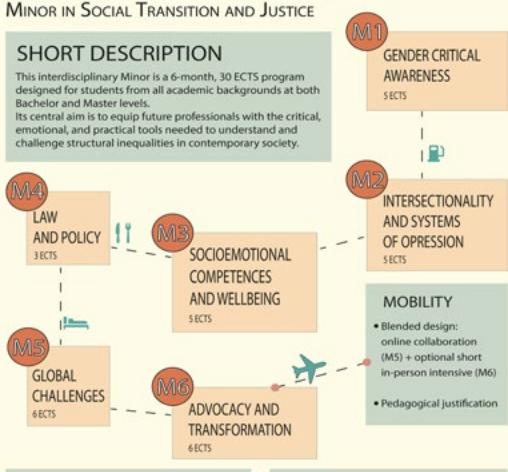
**MINOR IN SOCIAL TRANSITION AND JUSTICE**

**SUNRISE**  
SUNRISE (STRATEGIC) UNIVERSITIES NETWORK FOR REGIONAL INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**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.

**MINORS**



**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 Karpik | UITM, Poland



# Reducing Mass Food Waste

## Less Waste. More Future.

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

### SUNRISE ALLIANCE

**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 Innovation 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 learners.

**Team Members and Contact:**

- Louis Kameye Mohr
- Demetris Maroulis
- Thelma Da Rocha Augusto
- Kyriaki Erotokeirou
- Marina Georgiadou

**Facilitator:** Anton Dignos.

**SUNRISE**  
SMALLER (STRATEGIC) UNIVERSITIES  
FOR INNOVATIVE  
AND SUSTAINABLE EVOLUTION

### Master in Impact Management & Strategy

CHALLENGE 4 | TEAM 1  
LEAP Sunrise Challenge  
SUNRISE ALLIANCE | SEPTEMBER 2025  
Sothe BOURGUET & Mouniroussou DJANI  
CHPERMANOZA

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





# 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 Donatiene 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 x 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





**unibz**



UNIVERSITY of INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT  
in Rzeszow, POLAND



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DELLE MARCHE



UNIVERZITET  
“DŽEMAL BIJEDIĆ”  
U MOSTARU





# SUN RISE

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



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