



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

RESUME / SUMMARY

Abstract - English version (max. 4000 characters)

The observation made today is that the University of Corsica is evolving in a specific context in which it is faced with environmental, social and economic constraints. It is now essential to embark on a new trajectory to serve our territories and their populations. Mediterranean regions, especially islands, often suffer from structural handicaps partly linked to their isolation, their geographical specificities, their demographic constraints or their limited resources that can hinder their development. The proposed project aims to position the University of Corsica, at the center of territorial and Mediterranean island relations, in collaboration with its partners (CNRS, INRAE, CIRAD). The University, thanks to its proximity to the actors, must fully play an active interface role between teachers, researchers and the socio-economic world and become the catalyst of territorial dynamics. It is a question of implementing a global policy of establishment turned not only towards its territory, but also towards the Mediterranean island territories. The aim is to serve an ambition of excellence, collaboration and ultimately to improve the quality of life of the population.

Over a period of 6 years and taking into account the specificities of the Mediterranean island territories, our strategy aims to **reinforce the signature of the University of Corsica on the “island natural and cultural resources”, relying on the existing recognized strengths (laboratories, platforms), by reinforcing the link with the partners and actors in all the domains (training, research, communities, companies, international)**, in order to be a force of proposals and to engage the transformation of our territories. The UNITI project is structured around two axes and a complementary transversal axis:

- **Axis 1: Develop and strengthen natural resource platforms.** Energy, marine, agricultural, water and forestry resources are all real assets to be considered in an insular context. The aim is to support public policies by experimenting with sustainable solutions for resource conservation and to support the production sectors.
- **Axis 2: Create a tourism'Lab in the cultural industry.** Between development policy and sanctuary, the aim of this axis is to reinvent a relationship with the territory, particularly the islands, in its heritage, cultural and socio-economic components.
- **Transversal axis 3: For the Mediterranean island territories.** This axis supports the development of the project. It focuses on strengthening our international structure, with digital technology and in the framework of Science With and For Society (SWFS).

The originality of the project is also based on the constitution of a Strategic Orientation Committee (SOC), made up of local and international academic, scientific, institutional and socio-economic partners, making the major inclusive character apparent. This project will be tested in close collaboration with these actors, in a perspective of transferring the results to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean island territories and with a view to excellence, visibility and attractiveness to the international scientific community. Moreover, our project aims to synchronize all of the University's contractual deadlines, so that it constitutes an experimental framework that will lead to a specific conventional model in 2028-2029, coordinating the objectives and resources of all the partners, and committing the University to a sustainable trajectory in terms of research and training.



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Résumé en français (max. 4000 caractères)

Le constat fait aujourd'hui est que l'Université de Corse évolue dans un contexte spécifique en prise aux contraintes environnementales, sociales et économiques. Il est aujourd'hui essentiel de s'inscrire dans une nouvelle trajectoire au service de nos territoires et de leurs populations. Les régions méditerranéennes, qui plus est insulaires, souffrent souvent de handicaps structurels en partie liés à leur isolement, leurs spécificités géographiques, leurs contraintes démographiques ou leurs ressources limitées qui peuvent nuire à leur développement. Le projet proposé vise à positionner l'Université de Corse au centre des relations territoriales et méditerranéennes insulaires, en collaboration avec ses partenaires (CNRS, INRAE, CIRAD). L'Université, grâce à sa proximité avec les acteurs, doit pleinement jouer un rôle d'interface active entre les enseignants, les chercheurs et le monde socio-économique et devenir le catalyseur des dynamiques territoriales. Il s'agit de mettre en œuvre une politique globale d'établissement tournée non seulement vers son territoire mais également vers les territoires insulaires méditerranéens. L'objectif est de servir une ambition d'excellence, collaborative et *in fine* d'améliorer la qualité de vie des populations.

Sur une période de 6 ans et compte tenu des spécificités des territoires insulaires méditerranéens, notre stratégie vise à **renforcer la signature de l'Université de Corse sur les « ressources naturelles et culturelles insulaires »**, s'appuyant sur les forces existantes reconnues (laboratoires, plateformes), en renforçant le lien avec les partenaires et acteurs dans tous les domaines (formation, recherche, collectivités, entreprises, international), afin d'être force de propositions et engager la transformation de nos territoires. Le projet UNITI s'articule autour de deux axes et d'un axe complémentaire transversal :

- **Axe 1 : Développer et renforcer les plateformes sur les ressources naturelles.** Que ce soit les ressources énergétiques, marines, agricoles, en eau ou forestières, celles-ci constituent de véritables atouts à considérer dans un contexte d'insularité. Il s'agit de soutenir les politiques publiques en expérimentant des solutions durables de conservation des ressources et d'accompagner les filières de production.
- **Axe 2 : Créer un tourism'Lab en industrie culturelle.** Entre politique de développement et sanctuarisation, cet axe a comme objectif de réinventer un rapport au territoire notamment insulaire dans ses composantes patrimoniales, culturelles et socio-économiques.
- **Axe 3 transversal : Pour les territoires insulaires méditerranéens.** Cet axe vient en appui au développement du projet. Il cible le renforcement de notre structuration à l'international, avec le numérique et dans le cadre de la Science Avec et Pour la Société (SAPS).

L'originalité du projet repose également sur la constitution d'un Comité d'Orientation Stratégique (COS), constitué de partenaires locaux et internationaux académiques, scientifiques, institutionnels et socio-économiques, faisant apparaître le caractère inclusif majeur. Ce projet sera expérimenté en lien fort avec ces acteurs, dans une perspective de transfert en faveur d'un développement raisonné et durable des territoires insulaires méditerranéens et dans une perspective d'excellence, de visibilité et d'attractivité auprès de la communauté scientifique internationale. De plus, notre projet vise à synchroniser l'ensemble des échéances contractuelles de l'Université, afin qu'il constitue un cadre expérimental permettant de déboucher en 2028-2029 sur un modèle conventionnel spécifique, coordonnant objectifs et moyens de l'ensemble des partenaires, et d'engager l'Université dans une trajectoire pérenne en matière de recherche et formation.



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RESPONSE TO THE EXPERTS IN THE FIRST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

We would like to thank the experts and the evaluation committee for their comments on the strengths of our project. We wanted to respond point by point on the main identified weaknesses, the areas for improvement requested, on the general assessment and to present our new proposal which takes the experts' remarks into account.

As requested by the experts, the new UNITI project presents a more focused approach, reducing the number of programs to a more reasonable size. We have endeavored to clearly state our new strategy based on the platforms/laboratories already existing within the University of Corsica and at its local research partners, concentrating our efforts on the natural and cultural resources of the Mediterranean islands and in close collaboration with partners/collaborators/actors in all fields (training, research: local authorities, companies, international), in order to be a force for proposals and to initiate the transformation of our territories. Two main axes are retained on natural and cultural resources and a transversal axis, considered as support to the development of the UNITI project (International, Digital and Science With and For Society). The expected leverage effect of the UNITI project was also specified in the objectives.

The budgetary request has been reduced and the duration of the project is now 6 years, in order to synchronize all of the University's contractual deadlines (Tripartite Agreement / Accreditations / Site Agreements / CPER), as was emphasized as a strong point in our first project. The new draft presents the distribution of funds by axis and program to better justify the funds requested.

As recommended, the governance of the project has been simplified (one strategic steering committee with the partners and one operational committee for the whole project) and the deliverables (especially intermediaries) have been specified and quantified. We have also added an external advisory board, including actors from other Mediterranean islands.

The CNRS budget has been increased, as requested by the experts. Our involvement and role in the Network of Excellence for Island Territories (RETI) has been clarified and a rapprochement with the PRIMA initiative (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Region) is envisaged in the framework of our new project. The contribution of the various partners and collaborators has been completed in this project.

1 CONTEXT AND SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

1.1 THE UNIVERSITY OF CORSICA IN 2021

Island in the heart of the Mediterranean Area, Corsica has about 350,000 inhabitants in a still relatively preserved marine and terrestrial environment. Founded in 1765 and reopened in 1981 being shut down for two centuries, the University of Corsica Pasquale Paoli is an educational and research structure firmly anchored in its territory, in direct contact with major local, national and international issues. Being multidisciplinary, it has always endeavored to deploy an ambitious training and research



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Appel à projets vague 1

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EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

policy, combining objectives of scientific excellence and active contribution to the economic, social and cultural development of Corsica.

Unlike other universities, the University of Corsica operates within a specific regulatory framework resulting from the sharing of qualifications between the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MHERI) and the *Collectivité de Corse* (CDC), following the 22 January 2002 decentralization law relating to Corsica, which transferred to the CDC new qualifications in the areas of research, higher education and their infrastructures (articles L.4424-4, L.4424-5 et L.4424-34 CGCT). In 2004, the first tripartite framework agreement between the MHERI, the CDC and the University was signed, recognizing the specific normative framework applied to the University of Corsica and determining the commitments of the various parties. This will be followed by four implementation agreements defining the priority action programs, the implementation and monitoring procedures, as well as the financial commitments and the human resources allocation.

In terms of Training and Student Life, The University of Corsica offers more than 100 diplomas from the baccalaureate to the doctorate, delivered by 8 faculties, institutes and schools (Figure 1). The constant interest in the integration of its 5,000 students is based on training courses with a high professional content, in line with the major development issues of its territory.

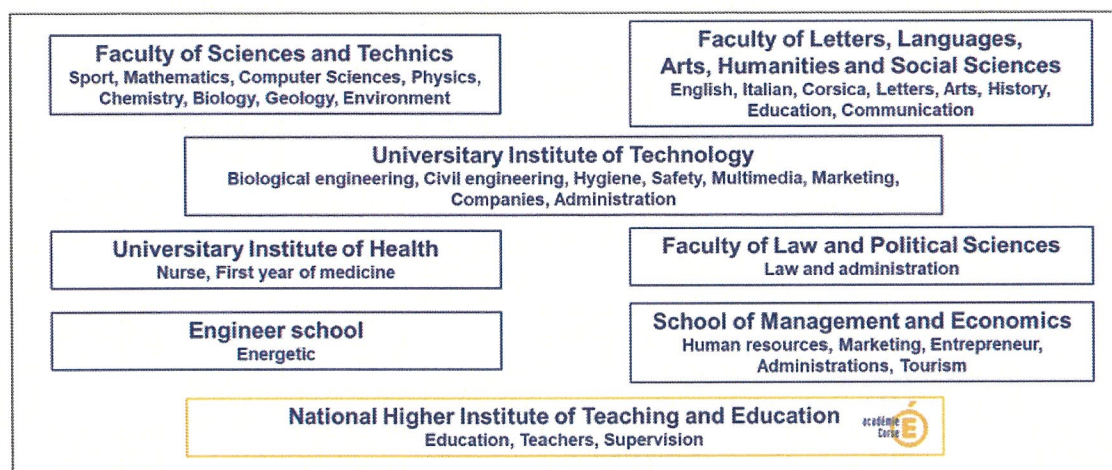


Figure 1: Structuring of Education at the University of Corsica.

The University of Corsica is concerned with providing its students with a study and living environment that is conducive to their success and has therefore developed a student life master plan. Built in collaboration with all the competent actors in the field (CROUS, CDC, Cities of Corsica, Regional Directorate of Youth, etc.), this document sets the strategic directions and actions to be taken in the areas of health, housing, success, precariousness, welfare, citizenship, etc.

The current training offer has been elaborated with a view to securing and consolidating acquired knowledge, while placing inter-component transversality and interdisciplinarity at the forefront. Four priorities have been defined: (1) to maintain and develop an attractive, high-quality, multidisciplinary training programs, (2) to strengthen student success by providing effective guidance, (3) to promote professional integration by being attentive to the needs expressed by socio-economic players, and (4) to continue and expand the international dimension of our training programs. To this end, the



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

University has services and facilities dedicated to guidance, work-study programs, professional integration, international affairs and lifelong learning (Figure 1). Pedagogical innovation is also at the heart of our concerns. It is now a matter of reexamining our practices, making our teaching methods evolve in depth and developing the related tools.

Voluntarily multidisciplinary in terms of training, the University of Corsica has chosen to structure its scientific policy around well-defined sectors. It is in line with a desire to continuously adapt its objectives in order to meet the changing needs of the island territory and the requirements of a national and international research environment. Our desire is to maintain and consolidate the scientific identity of the University of Corsica in the Mediterranean. It is expressed within several research units on specific themes, in collaboration with different partners (Figure 2).

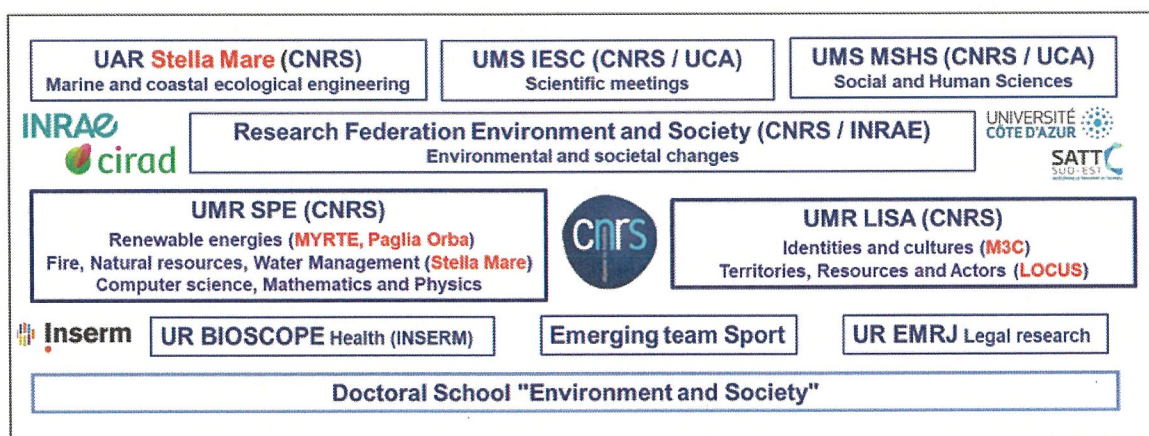


Figure 2: Structuring of Research at the University of Corsica (in red: technological platforms).

The implementation of our scientific policy also aims to place research at the heart and at the boundaries of disciplines, in order to promote interdisciplinary research through our Research Federation.

Transforming research into wealth is the objective set by the University of Corsica in terms of enhancement. Our scientific strategy aims to consolidate and stabilize our four platforms that respond to the strategic issues of innovation and transfer of research areas: Stella Mare on marine and coastal ecological engineering, Myrte/Paglia Orba in the field of renewable energies, M3C on Corsican identity and culture, and LOCUS on human-environment interactions (Figure 2). In close collaboration with the actors of innovation present on the territory (eg. Incubator INIZIA, SATT South-East, CapEnergies Competitiveness Cluster), our ambition is to capitalize on the multiple relationships developed with the socio-economic world, companies, production sectors and public organizations, to amplify the transfer indicators (startups, invention declarations, patents, operating licenses).

Convinced of the need to be part of the European and international space of research and higher education, the University is actively working to diversify its partnerships and funding windows.



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Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

1.2 FROM THE OBSERVATION TO A NEW TRAJECTORY: PROJECT AMBITION AND STRATEGY

The scientific identity of the University of Corsica, already characterized by the problems linked to the Mediterranean territories, has invested in fields linked, for example, to natural resources, such as renewable energies, or cultural resources such as identities and cultures, notably in terms of research and training. Some of this work has allowed the development of platforms that are in collaboration with socio-professional partners, working in favor of territorial development and correlated to the international context. The Mediterranean regions, whose insular nature increases the economic and social difficulties, require researchers to develop strategies and tools that can provide institutional and economic actors with decision-making assistance.

The ongoing transformation of the university landscape and its relationship to the territories have often been questioned. Nevertheless, there are still some areas to be worked on regarding the renewal of links between territories, higher education, research and innovation. In this respect, Corsica, since the law of January 2002, is consubstantially linked to the University and gives the latter a pilot role.

In this context, the perspectives included in this project position the **University as a stakeholder of cooperation and lever of transformation for the Mediterranean island territories on natural and cultural resources**. At the center of territorial and Mediterranean relations, the University must fully play the role of active interface between students, teachers, researchers and the socio-economic world, to act as a catalyst for territorial dynamics. This role is facilitated by the proximity of actors within the island space who are easily mobilized, very involved in the future of this territory and very attached to their university. It is a question of implementing a real global institution policy turned towards the territory and the Mediterranean island territories not only to respond to the demand but to anticipate the evolutions and to risk perspectives together. To do this, we plan to implement our own strategy, based on the territorial dynamics and specific needs of our university, in order to encourage and accompany the actors towards a necessary transformation. The objective is, through an ambition for excellence for the territories, *in fine*, to improve the quality of life of the population. The sustainable use of resources and the drastic reduction of impacts on resources, both natural and cultural, are a prerequisite for human survival.

Taking into account the specificity of Mediterranean island territories, **our strategy aims to strengthen the University of Corsica's signature on "island natural and cultural resources", relying on existing recognized strengths (laboratories, platforms), reinforcing the link with partners/actors in all fields (training, research: local authorities, companies, international), so as to be a force for proposals and to provide decision-making assistance**. The objective is clearly dedicated to research-action to accompany the transitions of the contemporary world by setting up a collaborative socio-ecosystem conducive to the creation and acceleration of innovation, as close as possible to the needs and expectations of the island territories and their diversities.

Based on the essential issues for Mediterranean island territories and focusing on responses to sustainable development problems, the UNITI project is structured around two axes and an additional transversal axis (Figure 3):

- **Axis 1: Develop and strengthen natural resource platforms.** Whether it is energy, marine, coastal, agricultural, water or forestry resources, these resources are real assets to be considered in a context of insularity and in the context of the transformation of territories, subject to numerous environmental constraints and in need of a necessary transition. Our strategy aims at targeting and structuring research-action efforts within the framework of platforms (Research, Training), in strong link with the actors of the territories, to provide decision support for the restoration and conservation of Mediterranean island environments and to support the production sectors (energy, fishing, aquaculture, agriculture).
- **Axis 2: Create a Tourism'Lab in cultural industry.** While islands are places of escape and refuge, their appeal is essentially natural. Corsica's tourist spending is below average because it lacks a sufficient cultural and leisure offer. The objective is to change a submissive trajectory into a chosen one through a dynamic of cultural qualification of the territory which can give meaning to this activity whose level of social acceptability is low. We would like to be able to deal with the issues that are currently of concern to our territory in order to draw up a set of specifications that will provide politicians with a decision-making aid.
- **Transversal axis 3: For the Mediterranean island territories.** This axis supports the development of the project. It particularly targets the reinforcement of our strategy and our structuring at the international level with the Mediterranean island territories, in-depth work on digital technology to accelerate and modernize the support of technicians, engineers, researchers, teacher-researchers, socio-economic actors and the creation of adapted tools, and finally the deployment of the Sciences With and For Society (SWFS) to support our strategy of publishing knowledge to the territories and societies.



Figure 3: UNITI project axes and programs.



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Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

The transforming ambition and the expected levers for the Mediterranean island territories aim to support public policies for the restoration and conservation of environments, to propose sustainable and effective solutions to contemporary environmental constraints, to support the production sectors, to rethink the tourist activity through the cultural and heritage prism in order to enhance the attractiveness of the territory and to improve the transfer and improvement activities through research and training actions, in close collaboration with the territorial actors.

In terms of strategic steering of the UNITI project, a Strategic Orientation Committee (SOC) at the level of the institution, made up of regional, national and international partners from the academic, institutional and socio-economic worlds, will have the role of directing the development of the project, making the major inclusive character clear, both for the university community and for the various partners.

Our project, to be deployed over 6 years, also aims to synchronize all the University's contractual deadlines (Tripartite Agreement/Accreditations/Site Agreements/CPER), so that it constitutes an experimental framework that will lead in 2028-2029 to a specific contractual model coordinating the objectives and means of all the partners (State/Region/Europe), and to continue the trajectory by integrating the new advances generated by the UNITI project.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROPOSED AXES AND PROGRAMS

The chosen axes and programs are in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: *"The Sustainable Development Goals are a call to action for all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand in hand with strategies that expand economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection and employment opportunities, while addressing climate change and environmental protection"*. The Mediterranean region is particularly rich in terms of human civilizations, both ancient and modern, as well as for its natural ecosystems. However, it is subject to significant constraints, due to the urban sprawl of large cities and coastal towns, diverse and intense economic uses of the main natural resources, affecting ecosystems, and with significant disparities between sub-regions. Moreover, the islands suffer from structural handicaps related to their isolation, which severely hampers their economic and social development.

Our project responds to the need for a particular orientation of development and transformation of Mediterranean island territories, where the inhabitants enjoy a high quality of life and where economic and social development is within the limits of the ecosystems' carrying capacity. Our strategy follows a structure based on two main axes on natural and cultural resources and a transversal axis, which will be experimented to favor an integrated approach, thanks to common objectives and the strong involvement of stakeholders.



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Appel à projets vague 1

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EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

2.1.1 Axis 1: Develop and strengthen natural resource platforms

A mountain in the middle of the Mediterranean, Corsica with its 1,000 kilometers of coastline, presents exceptional natural resources, subject to global changes. Sustainable management of energy resources, marine and coastal resources, agricultural and landscape resources, water resources and forest resources is already part of our scientific activities. Three specific programs have been selected within the framework of this project because they correspond to our strategic trajectory, for which we wish to make a major demonstration at regional, national and international level, in connection with the specific needs of island territories.

2.1.1.1 Program 1: Development and deployment of green hydrogen – H2

In the context of sustainable development, energy is indeed the cornerstone of the islands' planning strategy. In these territories, the traditional limitations in the field of energy are the distance to the main networks, the small scale, the difficulties of distribution and the lack of openness to the large international energy markets. These can be counterbalanced by the extreme abundance of renewable energy sources and their potential for dissemination and integration in these territories.

At the University, our scientific approach is to study energy systems in their entirety. A solar or wind power system is not only dependent on the technical reliability and performance of its components, but also on its architecture, the operating strategy of the various subsystems and its dimensioning. Moreover, it is dependent, by nature, on the rhythms and hazards of its energy supply. This approach uses a "whole system" methodology that takes into account all the particularities of using renewable energy sources. It is in this context that research of the structuring project "Renewable Energies" of the UMR CNRS SPE (<https://spe.universita.corsica/>) is conducted. They are based on the optimal management of renewable energy resources – the study, optimization and diagnosis of production systems and the rational use of deterministic energy flows, for which the major scientific instruments MYRTE and PAGLIA ORBA offer remarkable experimental resources: (https://spe.universita.corsica/article.php?id_art=219&id_rub=659&id_menu=0&id_cat=0&id_site=60 and

https://spe.universita.corsica/article.php?id_site=60&id_menu=0&id_rub=659&id_cat=0&id_art=591&lang=fr). With the setting up of the MYRTE technological platforms since 2009 and PAGLIA ORBA since 2012 within the Georges Peri Scientific Research Center in Ajaccio, the University has positioned itself as a pioneer in the fields of hydrogen FOR and THROUGH renewable energies, and in that of intelligent island micro-grids. These flexible experimental platforms, co-constructed with ALSTOM H2 and CEA Liten, are intended to provide practical support for scientific research and training on the one hand, but also to initiate technology transfers to industrial partner companies on the other.

Corsica must now take advantage of its lead in these emerging technologies to put it at the service of the territory and its economic development and to establish its international influence. Thus, our proposal is **directed towards the development of research and the reinforcement of training by the Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications de la Transition Energétique on Hydrogen**, in close connection with the structuring of the Hydrogen sector in Corsica.



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**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

→ **In terms of research**, our proposal is positioned around the theme of producing electrical energy from renewable energy sources hybridized with hydrogen storage units controlled by intelligent networks, as follows:

- large-scale, MYRTE-type installation. The characteristics of this production: direct coupling to the MV/LV network, variability, interfacing with power electronics, induce challenges for its mass integration within the electrical system
- decentralized multi-source, multi-storage, multi-use PAGLIA ORBA-type installation: these are electricity supply systems for self-consumption or the supply of isolated sites combining various types of production and storage facilities
- study of energy resources, absolutely necessary for the reasons explained above (predictive aspects, AI, correlation and model development, etc.)

→ **On the Training part**, it will be a question of relying on the capitalized experience of the *Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications de la Transition Energétique* existing in Corsica (CMQTE), in order to reinforce the initial and continuous training actions in the field of Hydrogen. A diagnosis of the training courses integrating H2 will be carried out and training recommendations will be proposed. It will also be a question of building the content of the creation of a “Green Hydrogen” Pole of Excellence.

→ **On the structuring of the sector**, the aim will be to support the CAPENERGIES competitiveness cluster through its Corsican delegation in order to create synergies between all the major territorial energy players, institutions (State, Region), universities and companies (large companies such as EDF, ENGIE and SMEs working in the field of renewable energies and specifiers (BE)) In order to consider the development of this sector in Corsica, it is essential to link all the actors and activities related to renewable energy in a transversal and integrative approach of the sector, based on the collective dynamics of an adapted governance. The markets of the “Green Hydrogen” sector constitute the pillars of a strategy of reconquest and national industrial performance. They respond to major economic and societal challenges.

Units or Components of the University: UMR CNRS SPE (Vignola site – Ajaccio)

Project partners: CNRS → *Contribution to the research and structuring of the hydrogen sector.*

Project collaborations: Agence de l'Urbanisme et de l'Énergie (AUE), Agence de Développement Economique de la Corse (ADEC), Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie (ADEME), CAPENERGIES competitiveness cluster, Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement (DREAL), Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications Transition Energétique (CMQTE), Centre International de Recherche sur l'Environnement et le Développement (CIRED) (Carbon neutrality in Corsica), Grenoble Génie Electrique (Ge2Lab) → *Participation in research, training and structuring of the Hydrogen industry in Corsica.*

2.1.1.2 Program 2: Towards marine and coastal engineering in the Euro-Mediterranean area

The sustainable management of fish stocks must be at the center of our current concerns; providing good quality data, assessment and evolution tools are essential steps in an approach that respects the environment and manages resources. With over 10 years of experience, the University's Stella Mare platform has acquired major scientific skills in the field of marine and coastal engineering (<https://stellamare.universita.corsica/>).



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EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

This program will make it possible to **experiment with new management models** in Corsica based on the direct involvement of the actors of the sea, aiming at the eco-sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources, and also through active interventions for the maintenance or even the increase of natural stocks. Through target species that are representative of the Mediterranean fisheries sector, pilot actions will be developed to enable professionals to implement models for the sustainable exploitation of their resource (ecological restoration, bio-purifiers in ports, etc.). This work will be done in collaboration with scientists, professionals and politicians. The innovative tools and technologies developed will be made available to them in order to facilitate decision-making and to promote the transfer of skills. The recent arrival of the European Union in Stella Mare allows the platform to envisage taking a step forward and positioning itself as a leader in marine and coastal ecological engineering. Similarly, the recent acquisition by the University of the land adjoining Stella Mare will allow a change of scale by adding a **productive dimension**, which corresponds to a priority objective of this program.

This program will be structured around four projects:

- **The production of red lobster (*Palinurus elephas*)**, with the aim of ecologically restoring degraded populations in the Mediterranean. At this stage, the University is one of only two centers in the world capable of producing juvenile red lobsters (the other experimenter being an English SME, currently a partner of Stella Mare). Experiments in reproductive control will make it possible to secure the production and rearing of juveniles. Work on nutritional aspects and aquaculture engineering (design of specific tanks) will be necessary. After securing the production of juveniles, ecological restoration work on a control area aimed at bringing back the degraded population stocks in Corsica is envisaged.
- **The production of the purple sea urchin (*Paracentrotus lividus*)** for the ecological restoration of degraded populations. The production of sea urchins is currently fully mastered by the University's teams; a significant ecological restoration will be carried out on a test area (in partnership with the Cap Corse and Agriate Natural Marine Park). This experimentation will make it possible to survey the population numbers in this area using different techniques (free release, use of microhabitats). An assessment of the control area will be carried out in order to develop a restoration protocol. This restoration experiment will help to define guidelines for this type of action. It will be continued and deployed on a Corsican scale in three areas, allowing the action to be extended to the four prud'homies of the Corsican Regional Committee for Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture (CRPMEM).
- **The production of the European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)** both to enable the development of the local shellfish industry and for its use as a bio-purifier. Thanks to the use of flat oysters, already produced at Stella Mare, the setting up of a production chain on the Diana pond in Corsica will be pursued (in partnership with the 3 oyster companies). Production will be secured thanks to the transfer of technology to oyster farmers (deployment of in situ oyster production modules, improvement of grow-out techniques). Restoration experiments will be carried out on the Urbino pond, in order to reintroduce the flat oyster into the water body (in partnership with the Conservatoire du Littoral, owner of the pond). This restoration will make it possible to envisage the resumption of oyster farming activities (with the CDC, manager of the water surface). This species will also be used in a multi-trophic integrated aquaculture experiment with the largest French aquaculture group (Gloria



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Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

Maris) for aquaculture diversification and bio-purification around marine fish farms. The results obtained in multi-trophic integrated aquaculture will make it possible to envisage ancillary and large-scale production of flat oysters in the open sea, close to fish cages. The use of flat oysters will also make it possible to continue the bio-purification experiments carried out in the Old Port of Bastia. The bio-purification experiments in the ports will be extended to various Corsican ports (e.g. Saint-Florent).

- **The production of common corb (*Sciaena umbra*)** for the restoration of degraded populations or the creation of aquaculture production chains. Over 20,000 juvenile corbs were produced at Stella Mare and transferred to an aquaculture farm for experimentation. The securing and improvement of corb production techniques will be carried out within the experimental hatchery, in order to obtain volumes allowing restoration operations within the Cape Corsica and Agriate Marine Park, in order to alleviate the decline of this species, which is currently subject to a moratorium. At the same time, semi-industrial volumes of juvenile transfers will allow the creation of a production chain for corbs reared at sea and the implementation of techniques for processing the product for human consumption.

Units or Components of the University: UAR CNRS Stella Mare

Project partners: CNRS → *Contribution to research and restoration of degraded populations or to the creation of aquaculture production chains.*

Project collaborations: Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Corse (CRPMEM), Syndicat des Aquaculteurs Corses, Parc Naturel Marin du Cap Corse et de l'Agriate, Groupe Gloria Maris, Conservatoire du Littoral, SARL Étang de Diana, SARL Sainte-Marie de Diana, EURL Île de Diana, RAS Aquaculture Research Ltd (Dr. David Fletcher, UK) → *Contribution to the restoration of populations or the creation of aquaculture production chains. Each collaborator is listed above according to the species concerned.*

2.1.1.3 Program 3: Characterization and adaptation of terrestrial resources to climate change

Because of its insularity and its position in the Mediterranean basin, Corsica is a sensitive area affected by climate change. The Mediterranean is currently ranked among the “hotspots”, i.e. among the most affected land areas of the planet as a result of climate change. Corsica is regularly affected by intense climatic events and their associated natural hazards: high occurrence of storms, intense rainfall, multiplication of Saharan dust episodes, droughts, forest fires, arrival of new diseases and pests. Its position makes it a favorable territory for identifying solutions to limit the effects of climate change on resources. Corsica also has the particularity of being a territory where the actors know each other well and where the researchers know the actors. It is also a favorable place for the implementation of participative approaches, knowledge exchange and shared foresight.

With more than 15 years of experience on terrestrial resources, within the framework of the structuring projects “Management and development of Water in the Mediterranean”, “Natural Resources” and “Fires” of the UMR CNRS SPE (<https://spe.universita.corsica/>), the University has obtained and deployed numerous research projects at regional level (e.g. Collectivité de Corse), national (e.g. Ministries, ANR) and international (e.g. H2020, Interreg), enabling the acquisition of solid scientific bases to position itself henceforth on climate change with a **multi and interdisciplinary** orientation. These research activities are used in the framework of training courses via several masters degrees offered at the University: the masters degrees “Sciences and Technology of Agriculture, Food



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

and the Environment”, “Risks and Environment” and “Water and Environmental Management”. **Based on its existing research and training activities, the University of Corsica wishes to undertake structuring initiatives to deal with climate change, particularly with regard to agricultural resources, water resources and forests.**

→ **In terms of research**, the objective is to produce new knowledge to understand and anticipate the evolution of forcing, assess their impacts and identify levers that can be mobilized in the short term. Several interdisciplinary actions will be conducted: 1) the impact of climate change on agricultural sustainability (support for the production sector), on surface and groundwater resources, on the evolution of vegetation fires, but also on the development of digital tools for hydro-meteorological forecasting, management and decision support; 2) the development of bioprocesses and the search for alternative solutions to plant protection products 3) the examination of legal measures aimed at preventing and limiting the effects of climate change, in particular through the fight against artificial soil, the promotion of good agricultural practices and, more broadly, the transformation of agricultural activity and the insurance or solidarity mechanisms that make it possible to limit the economic impact of climatic disasters; 4) the deployment of the circular economy, particularly in the agriculture and forestry sectors (reevaluation of by-products, support for local production and consumption).

→ **Creation of a Research/Stakeholders platform.** In order to strengthen the link with the territories, the project proposes creating a Research/Stakeholders platform, in partnership with various partners including INRAE and CIRAD. This platform will be a space for discussions between scientists and stakeholders (local authority managers, companies, producers’ associations, civil society, etc.). The aim is to promote the transfer of scientific knowledge to stakeholders, but also to bring up issues from the field to the scientists. *Thematic seminars* will be organized in the course of the project. Another objective of this platform is to develop *participatory sciences*, to produce scientific knowledge from and in collaboration with stakeholders on climate change, particularly for the collection of data in natural sciences (e.g. telephone application for collecting field information, densified hydro-meteorological observation networks), but also in human and social sciences (e.g. citizen participatory observatory of good agro-ecological practices). This platform (equipped with a web interface, providing technical support for the design of digital tools in participatory sciences, and allowing the data produced to be stored in a publicly accessible dashboard) will be based on the transversal axis within the framework of the actions on international, digital and Sciences With and For Society, in order to make the link between these researches and the other Mediterranean islands, and society.

→ **Establishment of a school of engineering in agronomy/agriculture/climate change.** In terms of training, the objective is to create an engineering course in agronomy/agriculture in relation to climate change, to respond to social and scientific questions about sustainable agriculture that is more respectful of the environment (there is no training in this field in Corsica). This engineering school will be developed and labeled in partnership with INRAE, which has three laboratories in Corsica and significant strengths in research and education, as well as experience in the field of agricultural training. INRAE and CIRAD researchers, some of whom already teach at the University of Corsica, will be able to pilot modules and share their skills in the fields of agriculture and climate change. They will also mobilize their network at the national level in schools of agronomy and agriculture, to mobilize teachers with a capacity in the areas covered in the engineering school. This specialty, open to students



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

with a three-year degree, will be attached to the Paolitech engineering school, currently specializing in energy (accredited by the *Commission des Titres d'Ingénieurs*).

Units or Components of the University: UMR CNRS SPE, UMR CNRS LISA, EMRJ Legal Research

Project partners: CNRS, INRAE, CIRAD → *Contribution to research, support to the agricultural production chain, contribution to the Research/Stakeholders platform and to the engineering school in agronomy/agriculture/climate change. INRAE and CIRAD work in the fields of agriculture.*

Project collaborations: Office d'Équipement Hydraulique de la Corse (OEHC), Office de l'Environnement de la Corse (OEC), Office du Développement Agricole et Rural de la Corse (ODARC), Chambre régionale d'agriculture, Service d'Incendie et de Secours de la Haute Corse (SIS2B) et de la Corse du Sud (SIS2B), Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie (ADEME), Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie (CCI), Chambre des métiers → *Support for the agricultural production sector, participation in the Research/actors platform and the agronomy/agriculture/climate change engineering school, in particular for employees concerned by this theme.*

2.1.2 Axis 2: Creating a Tourism'Lab in cultural industry

As a foreword to this axis, a hypothesis: the privileged link between heritage and local development. The Corsicans, in their relationship with the island territory, have developed in the long duration of the Mediterranean space-time, at the articulation of nature and culture, a basis of knowledge, uses, practices and representations constituting a resource which will allow any development policy to reconcile both Memory and Project. In the process that leads man to transform a space into a territory, the relationship that he institutes is foundational: a space that he particularizes and that particularizes him at the same time. In order to control the phenomena of territorial qualification (the Corsican "Brand") induced by the "placing in heritage" of the traces of the past, natural sites, local products, etc., the operations require different stages, in partnership with the institutional actors of the territory in particular: research (collections, identification of funds); conservation (digitization of funds, archiving); training (raising awareness of the various operators); promotion (publications/exhibitions, cultural action, development of tourist products). Between developmental policy and sanctuary, this axis aims to reinvent a relationship with the territory, particularly the island, in its heritage and socio-economic components. It is based on an interdisciplinary triptych: Training actors and organising a campus for tourism professions (Kallist'Ecole/PERFORMATOUR); Producing content by mobilising cultural capital (RIMeLAB); Planning a policy to promote linguistic diversity (ATLAS).

Program 4: Training, production and planning

This program will be structured around four projects:

- **Training the actors: School for the enhancement and promotion of Corsican heritage (Kallist'Ecole).** The aim is to enable the research and teaching components to collaborate in setting up modular courses in order to capitalize on their respective experiences. At the crossroads of different sectors of activity, tourism in Corsica is sorely lacking in trained people, particularly in the cultural and



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

natural heritage issues of the island and Mediterranean territory, which is nevertheless strongly impacted. The University's ability to solicit the territory's actors quickly and effectively has already been tested through various training actions that must now be refined at a modular granularity level and decompartmentalized at a disciplinary transversality level. This project is divided into three stages: (i) Make a diagnostic study which will aim to identify the needs in terms of profiles and competences of tourism stakeholders in Corsica. (ii) Identify and select all existing and missing training modules. (iii) Structuring the training map of the School for the enhancement and promotion of Corsican heritage (Kallist'Ecole), with the design and development of a digital space for networking stakeholders.

- **Training the actors: Campus de Métiers du tourisme (Performatour).** Tourism is essential for the development of Corsica's territory. It is an activity that is worth 24 to 30% of GDP and is characterized by a strong seasonality and a public sector that has a strong presence but struggles to organize an atomized entrepreneurial landscape, marked by a culture of non-professionalization, individualism and finally a strong tendency to appropriate common resources. It is therefore necessary to identify and activate innovative levers for the performance of tourism, which will allow a transition of the activity. The PERFORMATOUR project aims to develop private and public performance levers so that the activity generates maximum value. Beyond a diagnosis of the situation and the necessary articulation of professionals within the framework of efficient clusters, this phase must lead to the creation of two additional structuring tools: (i) a Campus of Tourism Professions to raise the level of skills of the region's professionals in both initial and continuing education; (ii) a Tourism Lab which will strengthen knowledge of the strategies of the players and the expectations of the local population through multi-disciplinary research. The Campus des Métiers will be the transmission belt of this knowledge to the territory and in particular to the professionals of the sector.

- **Producing content by mobilising cultural capital: representing Mediterranean identities through the arts.** Creating a *RIMe Lab* (Representing Mediterranean Identities through the Arts), implementing a research-creation protocol, allowing the artistic appropriation of socio-anthropological analyses of collective representations in the Mediterranean. This protocol will develop a methodology for the transfer of scientific and artistic skills in *Labs* of transdisciplinary creation, itinerant on the Corsican territory (1 *Lab* of 15 to 30 days per year for 6 years). The University wishes to give to the Corsican society the means to enliven its ethnocultural and aesthetic creative potential for an optimized quality of life, a citizen awakening to art and an opening to the world.

- **Application et Transfert pour L'Aménagement Sociolinguistique (ATLAS).** The ATLAS project aims to support public and private stakeholders in the implementation of the language planning voted by the Assembly of Corsica. The territory is characterized by a sociolinguistic situation in which, on the one hand, the French language, which is official, is spoken by the entire population and, on the other hand, Corsican, which is an endangered language according to UNESCO, for which the Assembly of Corsica set up a standardization plan in 2014. The latter proposes actions in the fields of adult corsophonization, culture, media, sports and leisure, public services and companies, notably through the implementation of actions specified in a charter. Other languages are also alive in the area, those resulting from Euro-Mediterranean immigration, as well as those spoken by foreign tourists, particularly from Europe. In this context, considered as a resource and a capital, the linguistic diversity of the territory, linked to its history and activities, calls for a sociolinguistic intervention integrating society in the processes of science and innovation by elaborating a new linguistic governance with



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

public and private stakeholders. The ATLAS project aims to empower people by experimenting with sociolinguistic monitoring, offering a shared analysis of the contexts and needs of training and language standardization.

Units or Components of the University: UMR CNRS LISA, Faculty of Letters, Languages, Arts, Human and Social Sciences (FLLASHS), Institute of Administration and Corporations (IAE), UMR CNRS SPE

Project partners: CNRS → *Contribution to research in the context of the four projects.*

Project collaborations: Agency for the Economic Development of Corsica (ADEC), Corsican Environment Office (OEC), Corsican Regional Natural Park, Corsican Tourism Agency (ATC), IAE of Perpignan, National Center of the Territorial Public Service (CNFPT), Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Chambers of Trade and Crafts, Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity, Chamber of Agriculture, Polyphonic Art Center, Sports Leagues, Training Centers, Tourist Offices, Artistic Structures in Corsica and the Mediterranean (RETI)

2.1.3 Transversal axis 3: For the Mediterranean island territories

In order to respond to the various island issues on natural and cultural resources, in line with territorial needs, an additional support and transversal axis is proposed to support the development of the project. It mainly targets three actions, the reinforcement of our strategy and our structuring at the international level, as well as modernization through digital technology for the support of the staff involved in the project, but also of the socio-economic stakeholders, and finally the deployment of the Sciences With and For Society (SWFS) to support our strategy of dissemination of knowledge to the territories.

2.1.3.1 *Enhancing the Euro-Mediterranean and Island Territories Network, Developing, Enlarging (ARTEMIDE)*

The transversal project **ARTEMIDE** aims at strengthening the cooperation strategy of our institution with universities and stakeholders of the Euro-Mediterranean and island territories. Envisaged as a label testifying to our institution's desire for openness, its objectives can be broken down into different action verbs. **The aim will be to consolidate, increase and animate the network of our collaborations in a process of support for innovation through the programs carried out by the different teams, in a spirit of developing the potential of our university in the island territories and broadening the skills of its vital forces.**

International cooperation is already at the heart of many projects at the University of Corsica, in the fields of training and research. These projects, which are sometimes one-offs and sometimes long-term, deserve to gain in strength thanks to monitoring and support tools for international missions that our International Relations Department cannot yet take on and that our Research, Transfer and Innovation Department also intends to strengthen. In the same way, it is necessary to give more meaning to the animation and usefulness of the international networks in which our university participates, such as the **RETI** (Network of Excellence of the Insular Territories), **Thétys** (Consortium of Euro-Mediterranean Universities), the **ARC** (Association of Euro-Mediterranean Research and Cooperation) Indeed, the actions carried out within these frameworks are still timid, sometimes



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

dormant or lacking in structure. By facilitating the building of bridges with the Euro-Mediterranean and island territories, it would be a question of creating emulation within our University by encouraging the participation of staff, students, teachers and professors in international programs and missions, but also to make our most innovative activities and know-how known and promoted (Innovation Challenge in the Mediterranean, Twin Fab Lab in Egypt, etc.).

Moreover, the membership or the application to other programs of excellence such as the **PRIMA** initiative, **UNIMED**, the European university networks or the consortia of support to Franco-X universities should be considered, always with a view to developing and widening the networks linking our University to the other stakeholders of the Euro-Mediterranean and island area.

This tool, symbolically entitled ARTEMIDE, from the Italian name of the Greek goddess of hunting, protector of paths and harbors, will support mainly (but not exclusively) the projects carried out within the four programs of the project: Renewable energy, Marine and coastal engineering, Terrestrial resources and climate change, Cultural industry. **This initiative will enable the teams to be involved in a sustainable international perspective through networking or membership/solicitation of other programs of excellence, as well as the construction of research and/or training consortia enabling the University to open up and overcome its insularity.**

Our University will thus be able to contribute to the international development of our island territory, by establishing relationships with non-university stakeholders elsewhere in the world. Human resource requirements will therefore be necessary (in particular a full-time engineer at the University of Corsica), as well as a “*Volontariat International en Entreprise*” (VIE) scheme to promote the scheme abroad and carry out lobbying and project structuring activities, particularly with public funding).

University services: Research, Transfer and Innovation Department (DRTI), International Relations Department (SRI)

Units or Components of the University: All

Project partners: CNRS

Collaborations envisaged in the framework of the project: Network of Excellence of the Insular Territories (RETI), Consortium of Euro-Mediterranean Universities (Thetys), Association for Euro-Mediterranean Research and Cooperation (ARC), French-speaking University Agency (AUF), Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Region (PRIMA), Business France for the Volontariat International en Entreprise ou en Administration (VIE/VIA), other Universities, networks, upcoming initiatives, etc.

2.1.3.2 Digital as a project driver

The objective of this action is to accelerate the digital transformation in the different components of the University, but also in the whole society. In the era of digital humanities and the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), computer sciences are today an essential vector of progress, whether social, economic, health, ecological, energy or cultural. They are no longer confined to a few disciplines. The mastery of key IT concepts, in particular artificial intelligence and ambient intelligence, must concern all citizens, so that they adopt an active rather than passive approach to new technologies. This transition must lead to a more intelligent society that uses digital technology as an opportunity to meet the challenges of insularity.



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

→ This digital action will feed the two axes of the project (natural and cultural resources), through various **short hybrid training courses** of the University Diploma (DU) type, which will enable an increase in the skills of the University's staff, but also of the stakeholders of Corsican society (decision-makers, administration managers, company directors, citizens). Two training courses will enable teacher-researchers to appropriate the fundamental concepts of artificial intelligence in order to enable them to make advanced use of AI in their research work. The first focus will be on the needs of basic sciences (simulations, predictions, classifications, optimization). A second focus will be on the needs of human and social sciences for which the contributions of AI are considerable and currently under-exploited (image analysis, corpus analysis, data mining). Another training course will allow a cross-fertilization, a mixing of different audiences around participatory sciences: an essential link in the transfer of research. Finally, two other training courses will enable the University to take part in future transitions, particularly in the field of training and pedagogical innovation and in the field of the digitalization of companies.

→ Once the knowledge and skills have been acquired by the members of the academic community, **adequate tools** will have to be proposed to meet the scientific, pedagogical and administrative objectives of the structure. Different software platforms will be put in place. A first platform for urban and rural data collection will be proposed. It will allow citizens to actively participate in the collection of data in a participatory science approach. These collections will be complemented by data retrieved by ambient intelligence devices (sensors). In the long term, this platform will enable the research work carried out in the two main areas to be enriched through a considerable number of applications. It could, for example, provide information on traffic, pollution, production (e.g. intelligent agriculture, monitoring of species movements) and tourist numbers. A second platform for data analysis and visualization will also be built. It will make it possible to give meaning and coherence to the various data collected in the field and generated during the research protocols. Different dashboards will be proposed with different levels of granularity in order to allow an understanding of the different phenomena observed by professors, teachers, students and the public.

→ In order to materialize this dynamic and to ensure **moments of convergence between different stakeholders**, meetings between researchers and citizens will be organized in dedicated third places offering access to the greatest number of people to the training and tools mentioned above. A program of conferences linked to the themes of intelligent territories will be proposed and opened to the public in connection with the chair "Mutations and Territorial Innovations" (MIT) of the University.

Units or Components of the University: UMR CNRS SPE, UMR CNRS LISA, other training components and research units

Project partners: CNRS

Project collaborations: Société Informatique Technologique Corse (SITEC), CAMPUS PLEX, Centre de recherches interdisciplinaires (CRI) in Paris, local start-ups (Icare, etc.), Municipality of Ajaccio (Integration of digital technology in society), Municipality of Porto-Vecchio (Integration of digital in society – smart-city), Municipality of Corte (Integration of digital in society), Municipality of Bastia (Integration of digital in society – European capital of culture), Community of Corsica (decision-making processes and artificial intelligence), Transport companies (coherent link between ecology, culture, heritage), Waste recycling company, AI House (awareness of Nice citizens), Rectorate.



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

**EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)**

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

2.1.3.3 Science With and For Society (SWFS)

In the framework of this project, the strengthening of interactions between science, research and society will be developed through a transversal SWFS action. For many years, the University of Corsica has been developing actions for the dissemination of Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Innovation Culture (CSTI). On the strength of this experience and aware of the societal issues involved in disseminating knowledge to all types of public, and in particular to schoolchildren, it aims to deploy its knowledge dissemination strategy throughout the island territory, taking its demographic and geographical particularities into account. It must assume an active and central role in the implementation of a territorial dynamic in synergy with the various regional stakeholders with whom it already collaborates and in line with the national policy announced by the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in the framework of the 2021-2030 research programming law. In order to be able to continue the efforts already undertaken, this cross-cutting action proposes to:

- 1. play a leading role in the regional system** (alongside the Corsican Community, the Regional Academic Delegation for Research and Innovation and the Corsican Academy) and to participate in the systems and networks that are being organized at **national level** (SWFS Vice-President networks, professional networks and the working group of the Conference of University Presidents).
- 2. structure the Science with and for Society relationship within the University:** i) transform the CSTI mission into a structure dedicated to Science Relations with and for Society, ii) increase the power of project development with diversification of funding sources, iii) to set up a network of correspondents in the University's components in order to develop and implement an overall strategy (diversification of themes, of the target public), to encourage the implementation of multidisciplinary actions and to mobilize new sources of funding, iv) to evaluate itself and to carry out a follow-up of the actions with a dashboard and indicators and v) develop a communication strategy based on different dissemination tools.
- 3. develop actions to disseminate scientific culture** by diversifying the themes, targets and approaches (conferences, exhibitions, films and educational kits); to develop and run mediation workshops for different audiences, in particular schoolchildren; to organize and participate in science popularization events (science festival, science fairs, young researchers' forum, scientific trophies); to develop participatory science in relation to its research projects in the fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Science and Technology.
- 4. strengthen the training of staff** in scientific mediation.

University services: Research, Transfer and Innovation Department (DRTI)

Units or Components of the University: All

Project partners: CNRS

Project collaborations: At the regional level, Collectivité De Corse (financing of CSTI dissemination projects), Académie de Corse (operational partner for CSTI projects and events), high schools, colleges, schools (operational partnership and target audience), Délégation Régionale Académique à la Recherche et à l'Innovation (DRARI, operational partner for CSTI events), Canopé de Corse network (setting up and operational partnership for projects), Centre Permanent d'Initiatives Pour l'Environnement (CPIE, operational partnership on CSTI projects and events), learned associations (operational partnership on CSTI events) and specialized associations (operational partnership and



Call for proposals – 2021
Appel à projets vague 1

EXCELLENCE SOUS TOUTES SES FORMES –
EXCELLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS (EXCELLENCES)

UNIV-TRANS-MED

Document de soumission / *Submission form*

target audience), Corsican cultural centers and media libraries and heritage interpretation centers (operational partnership and contribution of target audiences), the Galea Park (operational partnership and contribution of target audiences), the Bastia science center (operational partnership and contribution of target audiences), the media (written press, radio, television – help with publication). At the national level, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI, *financial support for SWFS activities*), major research organizations (CNRS, INSERM, INRAE, National Museum of Natural History – MNHN), Universities (*partnership on projects and major events*).