



# Academic Highlights

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# Academic Highlights

## FORGING ACADEMIC ALLIANCES

### Unimarconi's Presentation to the ESDC Executive Academic Board



The presentation of Guglielmo Marconi University to the Executive Academic Board of the European Security and Defense College (ESDC) was held on 16 November in Brussels. This prestigious institution is the only European body dedicated to training and education for the development of a common European security culture. On this occasion, the strengths of our university were recognized, regarding innovation, infrastructure, research and collaborations at European and international level.

As future members of the European Security and Defense College, we are committed to organizing the first module of the "13th Advanced Course for Political Advisers in Common Security and Defense Policy CSDP missions and operations", in collaboration with the Austrian National Defense Academy and the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP). This new synergy will offer us the opportunity to participate in new academic activities and create a collaborative network with members of the ESDC network."

## UNIMARCONI AT EDUTECH EUROPE

Unimarconi, as a pioneer in the field of digital education, was invited to participate in Edutech Europe, the international meeting dedicated to digital education, held in Amsterdam from 10 to 12 October.

The Director of the University's International Area, Arturo Lavalle, was one of the speakers in the panel entitled "The role of higher Education institutions in life long Learning", where he highlighted the potential of digital education and international partnerships as engine to face the challenges of a constantly evolving world where it is essential to offer training opportunities to people of all ages and with different backgrounds.

Unimarconi stands out for offering highly flexible online courses and resources, accessible from anywhere in the world, allowing students to stay aligned with the constantly evolving dynamics and needs of the job market.



# Spotlight on Research

## RENEWABLE ENERGY EDUCATION

### UNET Project Workshop at Makerere University Sets Course for 2024 and Beyond

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Makerere University Department of Physics hosted the 6th Workshop of the UNET Project. The five-day workshop (27th November- 1st December 2023) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and was intended to finalize the development of course materials in energy and plan for the remaining implementation part of the project. It was coordinated by Dr. Nyeinga Karidewa and Mr. Jimmy Chicanga from the Department of Physics, Makerere University, as well as Prof. Ole Jorgen Nydal from NTNU. It was also attended by the representatives from partner institutions, and the Head of the Department of Physics of Makerere University, Dr Denis Okello.

Besides developing the course materials, participants drew work plans for 2024, including plans for mobility of PhD students in 2024, and acquisition of equipment for the project. The workshop ended with an Annual General Assembly to assess progress.

According to Dr Karidewa, the doctoral programme is designed to teach engineers and scientists all about renewable energy technology. It will give them the skills and information they need to tackle the energy industry's practical problems and help the community with energy production, distribution and use.

UNET is a project focused on taught PhD programmes in energy especially in science and engineering fields among universities in the partner countries. It is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project supports collaborating universities to migrate from purely research-based PhD programmes towards taught based PhD programmes with mandatory coursework, similar to EU standards. The reform aims to improve the quality of research output and facilitate the successful completion of the PhD studies within their nominal study period.



## SO-FREE PARTNERS MET IN VERONA AND VISITED THE ICI CALDAIE



SO-FREE partners met in Verona (Italy), 25 and 26 October 2023, in order to discuss on the project current progress and next steps.

SO-FREE is a project that ambitiously aims to carry out a twin, parallel demonstration of 2 CHP systems, developed by 2 system integrators and housing successively 2 stacks from as many stack suppliers, all part of the Project. The objective is to demonstrate 9-month operation of both systems in flexi-fuel conditions, ranging from 100% natural gas feed, through hydrogen blending and biogas to 100% hydrogen feed.

The design for both prototype systems have been completed, the component suppliers and quotations defined, and their overall performance has been simulated in all fuel compositions. The short stack testing campaign has been successfully completed and the stack module-system interface design is ready for presentation to IEC TC105 as a heads-up before submission of a new proposal for standardisation. The technical-economical assessment model has been set up and the preliminary (design) data are being fed in to it.

After the meeting partners had the chance to visit the ICI Caldaie plant.



The SO-FREE main results are:

- development of different systems for cross-demonstration of stacks and systems at 2 locations;
- pre-assessment for CE certification;
- 9-month demo at TRL 6 (pre-certification) and at TRL7 (quasi-residential);

- system requirements frozen, P&IDs finalized of both systems, RFQs for components out, 3D design complete;
- manufacturing Q1 2024, 9-month Demo 2024-25;
- techno-economic assessment of 5-kW CHP system in 4 markets: NL, PL, UK, IT validated with demo performance data;
- LCA assessment. Stakeholder workshop at a demo location. October 2023.

For further information, please visit

<https://www.so-free.eu/>

or send an e-mail to

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by Susanna Correnti





# Glance at the Future

## International Trade Dynamics in a Post-Pandemic Era

The post pandemic international supply chains reshuffling, the increased trade and economic competition level between United States and China, the exit of the United Kingdom from the EU and the rising conflicts and geopolitical tensions are drastically affecting international trade activities. On the other side, the acceleration of technological advancements, amplified by the evolution of AI, as well as the implementation of national, regional and sectorial trade agreements also involving emerging markets, are creating new and great opportunities. Those opportunities also bring challenges to face, generated by ESG constraints and different standards, rules of origin and tariff and non-tariff measures which can be difficult and costly for businesses to navigate.

On November 14th the conference "Internationalisation & Global Trade: Policy & Competences for the Future Scenario" took place at the Giulio Cesare Hall of the University of Guglielmo Marconi. The event was organized by UniMarconi in collaboration with The Institute of Export & International Trade, Manageritalia, and GreenHill Advisory.

The conference aimed to explore and address the global dynamics that are significantly influencing international business activities. Such current issues as the ways new trade agreements create opportunities, particularly to take advantage of the twin transition to green and digital economies; challenges to be faced in the future and what can what can be done to ease fair and inclusive growth in international trade and the skills that have to be developed to respond to the new challenges of international trade, were discussed during the event.

During the second part of the event the new Master in Export Management & International Trade offered by UniMarconi was presented. As the world continues to evolve into a closely interconnected global community, the role of universities in developing skills to support internationalization processes becomes increasingly vital. Through a forward-thinking approach to education, universities can prepare students not only for academic success but also for meaningful contributions to the global society and economy.



## FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY: DESIGNING A MORE INCLUSIVE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT

Universities are meant to be bastions of knowledge, learning, and growth. However, to truly serve their purpose, they must embrace inclusivity in all aspects, creating an environment where diversity is not only celebrated but also embedded in the very fabric of the institution. While much attention has been given to student inclusivity, it is equally crucial to focus on the design of a more inclusive university environment involving university staff. Staff members play a pivotal role in shaping the daily experiences of students and contribute significantly to the overall culture of the institution.

Inclusivity goes beyond mere representation; it involves creating an environment where every individual feels valued, respected, and supported. This includes people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. In a university setting, this principle must extend to both students and staff.

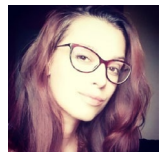
University staff members, including administrators, faculty, and support staff, have a direct impact on the daily experiences of students. Their attitudes, behaviors, and interactions set the tone for the entire campus. Therefore, fostering inclusivity among university staff is a crucial step toward creating a genuinely inclusive university environment.



Several workshops for the Awareness Campaign "Creating a more welcoming university" were carried out in Italy, France, Bulgaria, Romania and Finland in the framework of the project Dig2Inc (Inclusive Digital Learning). Each workshop was attended by at least 20 participants from the universities staff members: managers, teachers, instructors, counsellors, administrative, medical and social services. The workshops aimed to increase the awareness of the inclusion problems for low-SES students, especially in the context of digital learning, and identify needs and challenges from the point of view of staff members..

Creating a more inclusive university environment involves a comprehensive approach that encompasses not only students but also the staff who shape the university's culture. By actively addressing biases, promoting diversity in hiring, and fostering a culture of respect and support, universities can take significant strides toward becoming truly inclusive institutions.

by Darina Chesheva





**GMU Magazine** has been released with the contribution of all academic staff and partners around the world, if you wish to contribute highlighting any important news in accordance with the line of the release, please do not hesitate to contact us sending an email to [d.chesheva@unimarconi.it](mailto:d.chesheva@unimarconi.it)