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Capacity-Building projects in the field of Higher Education

Raising Research Capacity of Georgian HEIs through Developing R&D Units / HERD

HERD Project Visit of the Georgian Delegation @Université Côte d'Azur

One-week study visit of HERD Project delegation at Université Côte d'Azur

Following the training on R&D strategy delivered in Batumi (Georgia) last June by UNS/Université Côte d'Azur staff involved in research management at steering level and at support level, Université Côte d'Azur welcomed representatives of Georgian universities and research institutions in the framework of the HERD project (Erasmus + programme) in Nice for the week of October 7-11, 2019. The main goal of the study visit was to better understand the R&D strategy of Université Côte d'Azur. The agenda included detailed presentations, visits to various university sites and laboratories, and individual meetings in order to develop stronger ties of cooperation between France and Georgia. The different departments of Université Côte d'Azur have mobilized in order to prepare an intense and comprehensive program meant to give our counterparts a vision of UNS organization, its structuring program s, projects and actors in research and innovation.

The first day, October 7, served as an introduction day of the University of Cote d'Azur. Diana Sebbar, research executive director introduced departments and services of the university. Virginia Oddo and Anna Navaro provided information about European research office of innovation valorization and contracts, about the research strategy, development and financial support service.

Valrose Unit Director of the institute of Biology, Stéphane Noselli, presented the institute which is recognized internationally for its fundamental research in biology, genetics, pathologies and animal facility.



 Institut de Biologie Valrose

October 8, started with introducing NEUROMOD core program. Patricia Bouret-Reynaud, member of the scientific committee, who is in charge of the budget, mini-courses and partly of the scientific animation introduced University of Côte d'Azur has set up 9 core programs in order to bring out and/or consolidate cross-disciplinary fields of research, to become strong axes within the university. Mederic Argentina, made a presentation of Academy 2, "Complex Systems" that goes beyond conventional scientific domains. Academy of excellence, complex systems serves to create and strengthen the links between teams of different fields, helps to identify common methodological approach. Main objectives are: to discover the common basic principles, based on observations and experiences that determine the behaviour of complex systems; to identify and use the global characteristics that guide the dynamic behaviour of such systems.





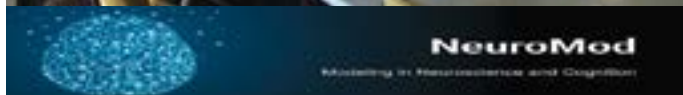
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Georgian delegation visited DS4H Graduate School of Research EUR DS4H, where Johan Montagnat - Director of the EUR got introduced to 8 Graduate Schools of Research, that are driven by the dynamism of the EUR Digital System for Humans (DS4H). Its main challenge is the design of the next generation of digital systems, the invention of new applications and the study of links between the human being and the digital world. The first graduate research school created within University of Côte d'Azur, DS4H promotes the link between training and research and ensures the continuum Master, PhD, laboratories.



The next place visited was Laboratory of International and European Law (EA - 7414 LADIE), presented by Anne Millet Devalle. The laboratory has built its expertise and reputation on the convergence of research in international and European law on issues of security and protection of the human person (in particular in the law on the use of force, the rights of migrants and refugees), EU governance (especially in external relations) and international trade law. The law of the sea is also a historical axis of its work, now expanded by research on the law of spaces.

The HERD delegation also visited the Institute for Peace and Development Law (IDPD) which is a part of the University of Nice. Its research activities are oriented mainly around three axes:

- Security issues: right to use of force, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, migrants and refugees' law, fight against transnational crime, EU Common Foreign and Security Policy;



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- The functioning of international organizations, in particular the European Union and the World Trade Organization;
- The law of the sea, and more generally the law of spaces (especially outer space and cyberspace).

Centre of Modern and Contemporary Mediterranean (EAI 193 - CMMC)

The same day was introduced The Centre of Modern and Contemporary Mediterranean, which is a research laboratory, located at University of Nice Sophia Antipolis / Université Côte d'Azur, member of the Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences of Nice. Jean-Paul Pellegrinetti talked about putting together modern and contemporary historians specializing in cultural, social, economic and political history, civilization specialists from Italy and Spain, specialists of the Ottoman world as well as geographers. The Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences South-East (MSHS South-East) is a Research Unit whose trustees are the CNRS, Université Nice Sophia Antipolis and the University of Corsica. It unites 14 research laboratories and is a part of the national network of MSH. The mission and objectives of MSHS South-East are: the animation of interdisciplinary research in humanities and social sciences around 5 research axes; the provision of services for the member laboratories; the development of cooperation with non-humanities and social sciences disciplines; the development of the scientific culture and cultural heritage used by humanities and social sciences; the development of relations between the researchers and the economic world.

October 9 started with the visit to The National Centre for Scientific Research, which is a multidisciplinary public research organization under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) has 18 allocations in the regions, that provide direct and local management of laboratories and maintain links with local partners and local authorities. The Côte d'Azur office includes 2 departments: Alpes-Maritimes and Var. In cooperation with the general management and the scientific institutes, the regional office manages the resources of the CNRS: administrative and financial management of the units and personalized management of the CNRS agents of

the region. It provides logistical support to the laboratories and assists them in fostering links with the socio-economic world and in research promotion activities.



The next destination was Polytech Campus Laboratory of Electronics, Antennas and Telecommunications (UMR 7248-LEAT) and its LapCOM. The host, Robert Staraj - Unit Director of the Laboratory of Electronics, Antennas and Telecommunications, which is a Joint Unit of the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis – CNRS, introduced the lab activities that are mainly focused on three directions: Modelling, Design and Communicating. David Simplot talked about the System of National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics (INRIA), which is a public scientific and technological French institution, specializing in digital sciences and placed under the dual supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.





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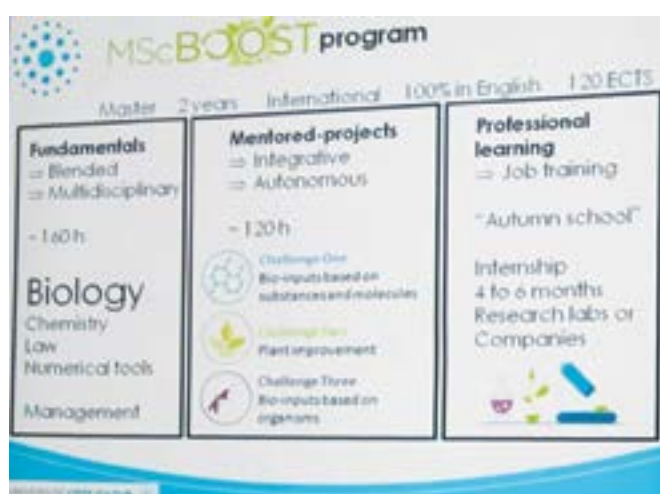
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The next joint research unit was The Sophia Agrobiotech Institute (ISA). It is supported by INRA, CNRS and Université Nice Sophia Antipolis. Research conducted here refers to the study of biotic interactions around the cultivated plant. For this, the ISA federates strong skills in evolutionary and functional biology, in comparative genomics, in ecology of populations and communities as well as in agronomy.

stimulate partnership research / transfer actions, to create initial and continuous training and to promote expertise and innovation in companies at the service of economic development and job creation in the territory. It develops its activities in the field of sustainable development and the Smart City around four strategic areas of activities: Environment, Risks, Energy and Mobility.



October 12, started in Laboratory of Innovation and Digital Technology for Education (URE LINE), which is a Research Unit of the ESPE (Higher School of Teaching and Education) of Nice Academy and Université Nice Sophia Antipolis. The Laboratory's scientific program is in line with the objectives of the MENSUR School's Reform Law through educational innovation and the use of digital technology as a lever for studying and improving educational practices. The program focuses on two main themes: educational innovation and the creative uses of digital technologies.



October 10 started with visit to Graduate Schools of research (EUR) of the University of Côte d'Azur that are designed to bring synergy to the different components of the university, its associated members and its partners. The aim of the schools is to develop disciplinary excellence while promoting multidisciplinary approaches.

The Centre for Doctoral Studies is a facilitator in the relations between the student, the research structures and the administration. Its fundamental mission is to simplify the procedures for doctoral students at all stages of their thesis and to be a welcoming body promoting interactions between PhD students.

Pierre Jean Barre, administrative Director of Mediterranean Institute of Risk, Environment and Sustainable Development (IMREDD) introduced the mission of IMREDD, in relation with the economic world. The mission of the institute is to





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The next place visited was Claude Pompidou Institute / CMRR, CoBTek (Cognition - Behaviour - Technology). The research team of Université Nice Sophia-Antipolis aims to develop research on the use of information and communication technologies for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of neuropsychiatric and neurodevelopmental pathologies.

Michel Bernasconi, Director of SKEMA introduced DEMOLA Innovation Platform which operates in 14 different countries, but University of Côte d'Azur represents its first facility in France.



It's a new, innovative course program where students work side by side with companies to help them solve concrete cases in multidisciplinary teams that include all members and partners of the university.

Representative of UCA Foundation, Eric Dumetz presented the nerve center of a new synergy between multidisciplinary university research and the local economic network, the Foundation responds to the challenges of our society. As a fundraising tool for University of Côte d'Azur, it essentially finances strategic projects by adding individual and corporate donations to the IDEX endowment. It accompanies the research entrepreneurs in their marketing and communication approaches.



As progress report confirms the Study Visit was compliant with the objectives of the project and the whole work package. Most of the participants underline that visit was most relevant in order to identify the R&D strategy of Université Côte d'Azur and explore the framework for organizational change and culture through research and innovation.

