

Università degli Studi di Perugia

Name of the organisation:	Università degli Studi di Perugia	
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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

The University of Perugia was founded in 1308. In that year, Pope Clement V issued a bull entitled *Super specula*, which granted the Studium of the city the authority to engage in higher education. The bull made Perugia a *leggere generaliter*, giving its degree courses universal validity and recognition. Formal imperial recognition of the University was conveyed in 1355, when Emperor Charles I granted Perugia the permanent right to have a University and to award degrees to students from all nations. In the 14th century, the University offered degrees in two fields: Law and General Arts.

Today, research, education and consulting activities in the various disciplines are organized in 16 Departments, with about 24,000 students, 1,100 professors and researchers and 1,100 staff members. The University also offers study programs in some other Umbrian towns: Assisi, Foligno, Narni and Terni.

In recent years, the University has undertaken a broad renewal of its degree programs and curricula, which prepare students to meet the demands of the labor market and to satisfy the needs for innovation expressed by employers in private and public sectors. Nowadays, the University of Perugia offers a vast array of degree programs, which cover nearly all fields of study authorized by the national Ministry of Higher Education. The University's teaching faculty combines a long and solid tradition of excellence with a commitment to innovation and an interdisciplinary approach that ensures students the synergies needed for the acquisition of flexible educational training based on a mixture of skills and abilities. Post-graduate degrees are offered in top rated specialization schools and doctoral programs, as well a variety of masters programs in the various academic disciplines.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

On the international level, the University remains firmly committed to developing collaborative relationships with European and non-European Universities, to facilitate and improve international advanced study opportunities for its students. The European Commission has recently awarded the University the prestigious ECTS label for excellence in the application of the European Credit Transfer System in all of its degree programs – first and second cycles and single cycle – confirming the high quality of our expanded international endeavors.

Our commitment to internationalization has been given concrete form through the establishment of working agreements with more than 380 institutions of higher learning throughout the European Union eligible for participation in the Erasmus program, and more than 130 cooperation agreements with European and extra-European universities for the development of collaborative initiatives in research and education. Several degree programs available at the University of Perugia already confer double degrees or European degree.

The University holds a Language Center (CLA) that delivers Italian courses to international students, as well as English, French, German courses and is endowed with the most up-to-date facilities of language learning and a staff of highly qualified mother-tongue teachers. The University holds a Library Services Centre (CSB), operating 13 libraries, and the University Centre for Scientific Museums (CAMS). Furthermore, students' academic and scientific training is enriched and supplemented by career services, provided by the Orientation Service and the Job Placement Service, and by outstanding sports and athletic facilities: the University Sports Centre (CUS) and the Giuseppe Bambagioni Sports and Recreation Centre. The University has a strong commitment towards disabled students, and is making constant efforts to improve their studying and educational experience.

Currently, there are about 50 research groups that received grants from the European Research network. The scientific research and education conducted in the University Departments is amplified by the activities of numerous specialized institutes and centers, the Teaching Hospital in Veterinary Medicine, and three internationally recognized centers of excellence: the Centre for Innovative Applied Nanostructural Materials in Chemistry, Physics, and Biomedicine (CEMIN), the Beer Research Centre (CRB), and the Centre for Innovative Applied Scientific Technologies in Archaeological and Art Historical Research (SMAart).

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

The University of Perugia is a generalist University. It offers the full spectrum of sciences and arts. It promotes independent, critical thought, enabling teachers and students to delve deeper into abstract issues

and further the emergence of new knowledge. It also contributes to professional and scientific activities. All these activities imply a degree of collaboration in teaching and research that stretches across the disciplines.

Some Departments, such as the Chemistry, Biology, Biotechnology Department, the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department, the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, and the Engineering Department, are focused on research lines regarding sustainability. At the University of Perugia, some professors and researchers are collaborating on the study of Complex Systems and the spreading of the methods and cross-disciplinary knowledge of Complexity Science. The principal goals of this interdisciplinary collaboration are:

1. To boost the development of Complexity Science
2. To contribute to the formation to the Complexity by educating to the non-linear thinking
3. To spread the ideas regarding Complexity into the society

Contributions that can be provided to the project

At the University of Perugia, there are some professors and researchers, who are focused on complex systems, systems thinking, and sustainability. They are professors and researchers having a different specific cultural background, such as chemistry, physics, biology, agronomy, pharmacy, engineering, mathematics, computer science, sociology, and philosophy. The University of Perugia guarantees the right cultural environment to develop the ideas of the project titled "Enhancing higher education on COMplex SYStems THINKING for sustainable development" and accomplish its three planned Intellectual Outputs.

Reasons of involvement in the project

At the University of Perugia, a multidisciplinary research and study group on Complex Systems has been formed. The members are Pier Luigi Gentili, Piero Dominici, Gianluigi Cardinali, David Grohmann, Claudio Santi, and others. They all participate directly and indirectly to the project titled "Enhancing higher education on COMplex SYStems THINKING for sustainable development." They believe that it is urgent to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research on Complex Systems to prepare the next generations to tackle the XXI century challenges. Participation in the "COSY THINKING" project is an important step in this direction.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Pier Luigi Gentili is an Assistant Professor of Physical Chemistry. Pier Luigi Gentili teaches and performs research in the field of Complexity for more than ten years. He leads the course titled "Investigation into Complex Systems" to graduate students in Chemistry since the 2009/2010 Academic Year and the course titled "Complex Biological Systems" to graduate students in Biotechnology since the 2018/2019 Academic Year. He has written an interdisciplinary textbook about Complex Systems, titled "Untangling Complex Systems: A Grand Challenge for Science," published by CRC Press (FL, USA) in 2018.

He has received funding for projects regarding Systems Chemistry in collaboration with the "Nonlinear Dynamics Group" of the Brandeis University (USA); the "European Laboratory of Nonlinear Optics" in Florence (Italy); the "Center for Photochemical Sciences" of the Bowling Green State University (USA); the "Laboratory of Computational Chemistry and Photochemistry" of University of Siena (Italy). Within Erasmus teaching and training funded projects, regarding the learning and investigation of Complex Systems, he has visited the Department of Computer Science of the University College of London (UK), the Department of Chemistry of the Université Paul Sabatier-Toulouse III (France), and the Structural Biology Research Center of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium).

Pier Luigi Gentili is contributing to the development of the research line of Natural Computing that is an effective strategy for the comprehension of both Natural and Computational Complexity. In particular, he is developing the innovative research line of Chemical Artificial Intelligence. He has interdisciplinary interests and knowledge favoured by the many collaborations and work experience in other Universities.