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Press release

Research and education – Verona looking beyond the horizon

New *Invite* project supported by the university, the European Commission and the Veneto Region, with over €2 million of funding for 14 PhDs

The University of Verona is preparing for a new leap beyond the horizon of the *Bel Paese*. Backed by the European Commission and the Veneto Region, the university is launching *Invite*, a programme which aims to train a “new generation” of young researchers in the name of internationalisation.

The plan foresees an investment of more than €2 million to fund 14 scholarships – one for each PhD programme running at the university. It aims to attract brilliant scholars who are at the onset of their career and who live abroad, whether they be of Italian or foreign nationality.

The project

Invite (Innovative Verona University’s Inter-disciplinary, Inter-sectoral and International Training Experience) aims to raise the bar in forming researchers, supporting their academic mobility and developing their career.

The European Commission is contributing more than €1 million toward the project as part of Cofund, one of the funding strands of the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie EU programmes. **This project from fair Verona is one of the few Italian entries to have successfully gained European funding from the 2016 call for applications, confirming the University of Verona’s excellence in forming PhD graduates at an international level.** The remaining funds will be provided by the university and the Veneto Region with a contribution of €200 000.

17 universities and research centres in Europe and the world are also involved, as well as **11 private companies and 5 institutional partners** (Verona Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, Confindustria, Progetto di vita Cattolica per i giovani and Netval).



Who it's for

The scholarships are intended for postgraduates who do not hold a PhD and have less than four years' research experience. Candidates can be of any nationality living in any country, as long as they have not stayed in Italy for more than 12 months in the past three years.

The project aims to form a new generation of researchers spanning a wide range of disciplines and to offer them the opportunity to develop professional collaborations with Italian and European academic institutions and the private sector. This will also **strengthen the university's ability to host talented international researchers in a high quality research environment.**

Expected benefits for the region

The Invite project will contribute significantly to the **Veneto Region's Smart Specialisation Strategy**. Enhancing intersectoral relations between academic institutions, companies and public entities will also lead to a **higher level of innovation in the region**. Moreover, it will boost the region's international attractiveness, so researchers who have left our country as part of the brain drain may choose to return. Last but not least, strategies and methods for **improving what universities in Veneto can offer at PhD level** will be implemented in line with EU recommendations.

Invite's added value to PhD education

As well as the specific training envisaged by each doctoral programme, the Invite project will provide scholarship recipients with extra activities to develop and strengthen their transversal knowledge. **Internationalisation** will be promoted through research periods abroad, including in non-academic contexts, to develop intersectoral and interdisciplinary skills.

Additionally, events with company representatives, business owners and local and public entities in Veneto will be organised.

A **personalised orientation** will be offered to the students to help them plan their post-doctoral career path.

For more information: www.univr.it/invite

University of Verona

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