

Acronym – UPTECH

Title – Universities & Partnerships for TECH Collaboration for High Impact Solutions

Scientific coordinator – Giuseppe Emmi

Project ID – 24488

CUP (National Project ID) – F73C25000910006

Department – Department of Architecture and Arts

Lead Partner – Universidad de Malaga (Spain)

luav Role – Project Partner

Other Partners – Fondazione Fenice Onlus (Italy), Harmonic Innovation Group S.p.A (Italy), Circular Economy Foundation (Belgium), Parque Tecnológico de Andalucía, S.A. (Spain), Santarém Polytechnic University (Portugal), University of Zadar (Croatia), PRIVACT P.C. (Greece)

Duration – 25 months

Start – 01/04/2025

Closure – 30/04/2027

Project budget – €1 288 740.00

luav budget – € 119 999.00

Funding to luav – € 119 999.00

Source of funding – European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) – Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Initiative – Call for Proposals 2024 – Strand B - Innovation and entrepreneurship capacity building at HEIs for the enhancement of Deep Tech

Description – The UPTECH project aims to **create an innovative ecosystem** connecting Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and centers of excellence in **Southern Europe**, from Portugal to Greece. By integrating higher education, research, and businesses, UPTECH promotes a collaborative model that leverages local expertise to address global challenges. Partners such as the University of Malaga, the University of Piraeus, and the Polytechnic Institute of Santarém work together to develop sustainable solutions and accelerate the adoption of innovative technologies in local economies.

UPTECH focuses on **deep tech disciplines**, including Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Cybersecurity, and the Internet of Things, to enhance the capacity of HEIs to train new technological talents. Special attention is given to addressing the gender gap in STEM fields by encouraging greater female participation through mentoring programs and inclusive educational pathways. Lifelong learning initiatives for students, researchers, and professionals will be implemented, focusing on entrepreneurial skills and the integration of advanced technologies.

The UPTECH project strengthens the **entrepreneurial and innovative capacity of HEIs** in Southern Europe by integrating them into innovation ecosystems through the innovation triangle model, which connects education, research, and businesses. Through deep tech courses (AI, Big Data, Cybersecurity, IoT) and innovative methods such as hackathons and co-creation labs, UPTECH links HEIs to SMEs, industrial clusters, and incubators.

Objectives – UPTECH has 7 Key Integrated Objectives:

1. **Build institutional and regional capacity:** embed AI, Big Data, and IoT into HEI strategies, and strengthen the collaboration with Smart Specialization Strategies (S3) stakeholders.
2. **Develop and support deep tech startups:** mentor and fund 34 startups across three regions, promoting technological innovation in deep tech.
3. **Enhance collaboration across sectors:** build cross-regional partnerships among HEIs, research centers, NGOs, and local authorities.
4. **Develop deep tech talent:** train 600 students and 120 staff in AI, Big Data, and IoT.
5. **Promote sustainability and ethical innovation:** ensure alignment with EU data protection regulations and foster gender-inclusive innovation practices.
6. **Foster an inclusive innovation community:** build a vibrant ecosystem prioritizing diversity, equity, inclusion.
7. **Ensure sustainability and market integration:** institutionalize outcomes into HEI strategies and integrate innovations into the market by 2030.

Website – www.uptech-project.eu

Project overview on EIT website – www.eit-hei.eu/funded-projects/uptech



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