



Partner Presentation Form

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Description of the organisation

The University of Genova is one of the most ancient among the European large universities. It was founded in 1333, but its history can be traced back several centuries (14th century).

UNIGE is a public institution provided with scientific, educational, organizational and financial autonomy and it is involved in the building of a European area for research and advanced professional training. It operates in accordance with the principles of the Constitution of the Italian Republic and of Magna Charta subscribed by European Universities in 1988.

With its 126 Degrees, more than 55 Postgraduate Schools, and 26 Masters, UNIGE provides a truly multi-disciplinary teaching offer to more than 30.000 students, and nearly 2.800 international students. UNIGE counts 22 Departments, 27 PhD courses, 55 Specialisation Schools, an Integrated Library System, 12 Research and Service Centres, and 2 Centres of Excellence.

The staff consists in 1255 academics, 401 postdocs, 1399 laboratory technicians and administrative personnel. UNIGE has a strong participation in the most important EU and international research and cooperation Programmes. Discoveries, inventions, advances achieved by research activities are successfully commercialized.

The Genoese Atheneum possesses a vast and important patrimony to manage, safeguard and preserve, that is already made available to the public, not only to the students, but also to the large public, thanks to the collaboration with the Municipality and the other Partners (mainly MIBACT_PML) through the renowned event named the Rolli Days. The Rolli Days take place twice a year and contemplate the opening to the public of 42 buildings. The event is dedicated to the understanding of the complex cultural heritage of the center of Genoa, its architecture and its historical and artistic characteristics. In this context, the Genoese Atheneum possesses a vast and important patrimony to manage, safeguard and preserve. In recent years, its activity has been focused on both scientific research and dissemination, presenting this heritage to the general public. In this regard, each year, the Scientific Committee for the management and enhancement of the site - among which the University of Genoa next to the Municipality, the Region, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and the Palazzo Ducale Foundation for Culture – launches an event named Rolli Days. During this event, 42 buildings belonging to this historical site and many others are opened for free to the public promoting a better understanding of a complex architectural, sociopolitical and artistic heritage such as that of the historic center of Genoa. Similarly, to connection existing between Rolli Days and Cultural Heritage, the University and the City holds a close relationship also in the field of Science as witnessed by the annual organization of the event called Festival della Scienza (2003-2018), aimed at moving science to the citizen level, through conferences, laboratories and stands located in the city center.

Since 1989 the University of Genoa, following its vocation for natural sciences, holds the management of the international and historical **Hanbury Botanical Gardens** (GBH) in Ventimiglia, near the French border. The Hanbury Botanical Gardens represent a naturalistic international hotspot, managing both terrestrial and marine sites considered by the European Habitat Directive.

The **Museum of Ethnomedicine A. Scarpa** of Educational Sciences Department of the University of Genoa and summarizes travel and 55 years of activity of this doctor periodeuta, curious to learn how to treat the peoples of the five Continents following their traditional medicines. The collection has been sorted according to a diachronic policy, starting from the oldest medical systems for reaching the news of popular traditions, while respecting the history of the routes taken by A. Scarpa from 1938 to 1992. Some showcases are thematic and treat specific topics in detail that, in some cases, have risen to autonomous disciplines. The exposure of over 1500 items is often complemented by extensive captions, references and referrals to searches, all in an attempt to build a didactic exhibition. Objects, instruments, medicines, photographs (with references to circumstances of time and place) document, from the vantage point of Scarpa, health strategies or individual prophylactic and curative practices, adopted by many different ethnic groups. The result is a valuable testimony of a medical knowledge in danger of extinction, an historical universe of man *sub specie medicinae*. So, the first goal is meant to be that of storage and collection. At the same time, it stresses the relevance of certain therapeutic solutions, attracting the

attention of specialists on "active" principles, or on simple but effective processes which, as "strange" may appear, are deserving of attention, were it not for the fact that other emerging from centuries of observations, experiments. With this Museum, unique in its kind in the world, Scarpa has filled in a gap in knowledge and in the development of Ethnomedicine in the belief of inducing a better knowledge and appreciation of the contribution offered by the "traditional practices" to the advancement of all those sciences that operate in an attempt to alleviate human suffering.

A first group of **Chemistry Museum** can be considered to be composed of different materials (Tools, collections of books, documents, etc.) that, over the years, has accumulated in the premises subsequently intended for General Chemistry Institute, in Genoa. The collections of books, including several texts milestones in the evolution of chemical disciplines, were generally transferred to the antiquarian section of the library attached to current Department of chemistry and industrial chemistry (Chemistry library services "s. Caldwell").

The **National Museum of Antarctica** allows the public to discover what life is like at the Italian research station in Antarctica and the continent's most beautiful locations, thanks to videos, reconstructions and scientific finds. Interactive displays allow visitors to discover the last uncontaminated continent and follow the activity of Italian researchers in Antarctica, which is a vast natural laboratory for the study of environmental and climatic issues.

With its museums and scientific collections, its ancient buildings, and historical furniture, the University of Genoa is one of the most valuable cultural and scientific heritage of the Mediterranean and the Italian north-western area.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

The University of Genova is currently involved in 44 active projects under H2020 projects, over 68 projects funded under Interreg, LIFE (25 projects since 1999) and other international funding instruments and had over 116 projects in FP7.

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

UNIGE operates in the field of Sciences for Conservation, Restoration, Exploitation of Cultural Heritage. By drawing on its scientific expertise achieved through R&D on new technologies, energy and the environment, in collaboration with experts from in cultural heritage, UNIGE departments started adjusting, orienting and broadening its specific technological know-how in order to best meet the specific demands in that field. On such grounds, UNIGE performs surveys and interventions for the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage, local bodies, public and private institutions, also within the framework of national and international research programmes. Not only does UNIGE develop and apply technologies and know-how, but it also transfers them to all cultural heritage professionals.

The Museum of Ethnomedicine A. Scarpa of the Department of Educational Sciences (DISFOR) and the UNESCO CHAIR in "Anthropology of Health. Biosphere and healing systems" have a wide experience in coordinating and developing activities in the field of scientific research on educational subjects and for over thirty years they have been involved in activities aimed at knowing, preserving, exploiting and valorizing material and immaterial cultural heritage.

Thanks to the activities of the team of anthropologists, geographers, sociologists, ethnologists, archaeologists, and architects of the UNESCO CHAIR, the research on the cultural diversity is being developed with particular regard to their impact on the development and implementation of broadcasting policy.

UNIGE Scientific Board

Nicoletta Varani (F), PhD in "Urban and Regional Geography" at the consortium of the Universities of Genoa, Turin, Florence and Pisa. Full time Professor of Geography at the University of Genoa, Italy.

She conducts studies and research in the field of socio-cultural geography, environmental policy and tourism. She is currently the Director of the Department of Educational Sciences.

For more information, please see: <https://disfor.unige.it/node/1798>

Antonio Guerri (M) graduated in Biological Sciences at the University of Genoa, Emeritus professor of Anthropology. He has been teaching for many years "Anthropology of Health" in Medical School courses and Social Sciences courses at the Genoa University. He is the Scientific Director of the UNESCO Chair on "Anthropology of health – Biosphere and Healing systems", University of Genoa (UNIGE). Moreover, he is the scientific director of the Antonio Scarpa Museum of Ethnomedicine. He was nominated honorary professor at the University of Lima, Expert Adviser at the University of Hong Kong and he is member of numerous international societies dealing with traditional medicines and ethnopharmacology.

For more information, please see: <http://cattedraunesco.unige.it>

Fausto Novi (M), architect, full professor in technology of architecture at the Department of Architecture and Design at the University of Genoa. He has carried out research on technological innovation, on the control and evaluation of typological and technological quality, on self-help housing construction, and on technologies for environmental sustainability of the building construction and renovation. He has been responsible of the design and construction of the main exhibition space of the Department, of the design and construction of the University's Ethnomedicine Museum in the exhibition "Stregoni aristotelici" during the celebrations for the 500th anniversary of the Genoa medical school and of the preliminary design of the Antarctica Museum as part of the retrofitting of an old port warehouse. He is currently responsible for the design of the new building of the Ethnomedicine Museum of the University of Genoa.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

Thanks to the research activity in the field of action, staff exchange, support and networking are already part of the everyday life of the SELECT team. Due to consolidated international practice of its group, UNIGE will contribute to the best success of international dissemination and exploitation of results, to writing funding proposal and offering new skills and competencies to the ESR, with ad hoc training initiatives and event organisation.

Reasons of involvement in the project

The University of Genova, highly experienced in different kind of ERASMUS PLUS actions, is very dynamic in promoting all forms of cultural heritage enhancement. Through its museums and collections, its vast and precious book heritage has for years spread the importance of the study of history, arts, traditions and languages of peoples. Several projects funded by the European Union and public and private bodies are in the direction of SELECT and aim to stimulate knowledge through the use of technology and innovative pedagogical actions. The network of schools with which UNIGE carries out numerous activities and projects, as well as the cultural associations and institution with which it collaborates (e.g., UNIAUSER, CNR ITD) will benefit from the outputs of this innovative interdisciplinary project to bring students, teachers and citizens closer to a deeper understanding of the origins of Europe.

UNIGE will lead SELECT project and take part into all activities.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Anna Siri, PhD, is co-founder of the UNESCO Chair in Anthropology of Health, Biosphere and Healing Systems, and she is the scientific responsible for the projects of the Museum of Ethnomedicine A. Scarpa of the University of Genoa. Her main interests are the interconnections between migration, health, education, social vulnerability and inequalities. She collaborates with international research centres in the valorisation and promotion of the material and immaterial cultural heritage linked to peoples' traditional healing practices. Anna has received some important awards from MIBACT and the Ligurian Academy of Sciences and Letters. She has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Genoa for over 15 years. She collaborates in the dissemination and promotion of research through innovative methodologies for the open sharing of science, she organises conferences and museum exhibitions at the national and international level around the ethnomedical collection A. Scarpa and the activities promoted by the University of Genoa and by the UNESCO Chair. She has consolidated experience in European projects and has been writing and coordinating for years numerous research projects funded under the prestigious MSCA and H2020 programmes and teaching and science dissemination projects funded by MIBACT, Foundations and EACEA under the Erasmus Plus KA 2 Strategic Partnership programme. She is scientifically active with more than 85 publications, including 8 books, 20 book chapters, 36 articles published in scientific journals and/or of international relevance (of which 25 on Scopus), 21 peer-reviewed articles published in conference proceedings. In the last 10 years, she has organised 6 international conferences and 3 temporary exhibitions and has been invited to more than 30 international conferences, workshops and symposia.