

## Joint PhD Agreement between University Metropolitan Tirana and Université Paris-Saclay

University Metropolitan Tirana (UMT) is proud to announce the signing of a joint PhD supervision agreement in the field of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) with Université Paris-Saclay (UPS), France, globally recognized for its academic excellence and leadership in research. Ranked 13th worldwide and the top university in continental Europe, UPS welcomes the candidate, Mr. Géraldo Liçi, within the prestigious Laboratoire des Signaux et Systèmes (L2S), one of the world's leading laboratories in the field of information, communication, and systems sciences and technologies (STICS). Géraldo will also benefit from an outstanding research ecosystem offered by UPS, including access to international research structures like the International Laboratory on Learning Systems (<https://www.centralesupelec.fr/en/ills>).

The PhD will be supervised by an exceptional team of researchers:

- Prof. Dr. Silviu-Iulian Niculescu (UPS), former director of L2S and distinguished researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), is globally recognized for his contributions to control theory, time-delay systems, and distributed systems. A recipient of two CNRS silver medals and one bronze medal.
- Prof. Dr. Arben Cela, professor at ESIEE Paris, founding member of Université Gustave Eiffel, and associate researcher at UMT's AI and Intelligent Systems Laboratory, brings his renowned expertise in optimal control of real-time distributed systems and his recent commitment to artificial intelligence research. He obtained his Master's, PhD, and Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches (HDR) degrees from UPS.
- Evis Plaku, a talented young researcher and assistant professor at UMT, completes this supervisory team, contributing an innovative and dynamic perspective.

This close collaboration between the supervisors ensures high-level guidance for this doctoral project. At the heart of this agreement is Mr. Géraldo Liçi, a talented Master's student in Electrical Engineering at UMT. His exemplary academic record and strong research potential make him an ideal candidate for this joint PhD program, which promises significant advancements in the field of robotics and artificial intelligence.

We express our deepest gratitude to the French Embassy in Tirana for its invaluable support and for granting a scholarship to Mr. Géraldo Liçi, making this international collaboration possible. This agreement reflects the shared commitment of UMT and UPS to promote scientific excellence and strengthen Franco-Albanian academic ties, while leveraging international partnerships, notably with leading research structures like ILLS, to advance research in AI and robotics.