



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



Alma Mater and Unipol renew cooperation for teaching, research and sustainability activities

Bologna, 23 September 2019 – The University of Bologna and Unipol Gruppo S.p.a., leading insurance group in non-life business on the Italian market and among the top ten in Europe, signed a framework cooperation agreement. Dean Francesco Ubertini and Unipol Chief Executive Officer, Carlo Cimbri, confirmed their wish to jointly develop projects for teaching, research and sustainability over the next three years.

Ten years ago, the first partnership between UniBo and Unipol seized the opportunity to pursue a fruitful collaboration between academia and the world of production. Today, the new agreement seeks to address the issues of a fast-evolving society, and is therefore focused on Research & Development and Technology Transfer.

Joint research projects, participation in competitive tenders, consultancy, research grant funding and doctoral scholarships, placement activities, internships and orientation fairs: the University of Bologna and Unipol will work together on these initiatives and many more, without forgetting projects for **sustainability**, social innovation and the wellbeing of their respective communities. Cooperation will also extend to training, especially through Unica - the Corporate Academy of the Group – with regard to teaching for both students and Unipol employees in specific disciplinary fields, with the joint planning **potential new degree courses**, masters', higher education courses, lifelong learning, specialisation schools and refresher courses. The subjects of greatest interest include insurance, banking, economics and finance and engineering, as well as corporate training, healthcare and welfare.

The Unipol Group, a company with approximately 12,000 employees, and 33,000 people working in allied insurance distribution activities throughout Italy, is particularly oriented towards technological innovation applied to the insurance business in digital, big data, analytics and home automation fields. The Agreement will enable the development of a strong synergy between UniBo and Leithà, the Group company that deals with analytics, as well as the experimentation of new technological solutions and predictive data analysis to support the evolution of the Group's different businesses. In fact, during negotiations for the renewal of the Framework Agreement in 2018, two UniBo-Leithà multidisciplinary working groups were launched, which involved numerous research groups and company personnel in the development of two projects on the topics of Flood Risk and Weather Forecasting.

As regards these two working groups, Unipol recently signed a research contract, which, due to its complex and multidisciplinary nature, will involve several University departments with the aim of creating hydrological risk maps for the entire Italian territory through the use of DEM-based models.

By signing the Framework Agreement, the University thus hopes to consolidate its relationship with the Unipol Group and develop new innovative projects that involve students, professors and researchers, as well as professionals working for the insurance company.