

ABOUT

An overview of Univerlecco

Univerlecco is a territorial association that consists of the Lecco Chamber of Commerce, the Municipality and Province of Lecco, Entrepreneurs Unions, Labour Unions, a Research Hospital and a Health trust. It was created to **facilitate the presence of research institutions in the Lecco area**.

Its first actions include an agreement to open a branch of Politecnico di Milano in Lecco and bring a CNR (National Council of Research) group to Lecco. In 2005, "Formare Ingegneri Stranieri" started, and full bursaries were provided for foreign students studying at Politecnico di Milano sede di Lecco in its MSc programmes, taught in English.

In 2007, Univerlecco negotiated an agreement between Politecnico di Milano and CNR to share their laboratories. In 2013, a new University Campus was inaugurated in Lecco, which includes Politecnico di Milano and CNR (more information in graphics 1, page 3, "Milestones").

When the presence of research institutions in Lecco became strong enough, Univerlecco expanded its field of action to **fostering relationships between research institutions and companies and transferring the results from research to business**.

The role of Univerlecco is being the coordinator in a strategic approach to innovation, whose direction is inspired and driven by its president Vico Valassi. This approach is best explained by B2R@Lecco, a set of actions aiming at bringing research and companies together into one place.

The goal for the project is for companies and research units to know each other and look for real-world chances of collaboration. At the presentation, March, 28th, 45 companies and more than 80 researchers attended, resulting in 130 Business to Research meetings.

Business to Research is one of the projects developed under EcoSmartLand. In particular, B2R is part of a wider laboratory called Lecco Innovation that takes advantage of the chances given by the 2015 World Expo. **EcoSmartLand starts a set of discussions and actions that will have long-lasting benefits for Lecco, beyond the Expo.** Also Think&Go and Lecco Innovation Living Lab, discussed below, are part of the laboratory activities.

Univerlecco has applied this systemic approach to innovation also to research, coordinating and being a consultant in a number of research projects that are strategic for the local area, especially in matters of rehabilitation (graphics 2, page 4, "Research Projects").

In particular, Think&Go, that just started, aims at enhancing the network of research laboratories and mapping its assets, human resources and research themes.

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The project allowed to grant bursaries for 10 young researchers that are shared among the partners of the project, that act as bridges among the laboratories.

To formalize this long-term collaboration and the role of Univerlecco as a coordinator, Lecco instituted itself as a Living Lab (Lecco Innovation Living Lab). **The aim of the Living Lab is for Univerlecco to become a privileged interface between research and business.** Companies, researchers, investors will come to the Living Lab with a question, a problem, etc and the Living Lab staff will identify and activate selectively the right resources, supporting the partners throughout the process.

As a way to gain wider international appeal, Univerlecco and its partners applied for membership at ENoLL, the European Network of Living Labs.

The value and importance of the work carried out by **Univerlecco** has been acknowledged and validated several times: **in 2013 Regione Lombardia appointed it coordinator of the Lombardy Cluster Technologies for the Living Environment.** The Cluster is a privileged spokesman with Regional institutions, to identify research themes and development strategies relevant for the economic fabric on the territory.

The Cluster is a partnership of research institutions, SME, big companies, associations and focuses on health, ehealth, domotics, buildings, materials, products and services towards healthy ageing and ambient assisted living. The approach is inclusive and is directed towards anyone who has a shared interest with the themes of the cluster and is willing to collaborate on common goals. Among its aims the Cluster is about opening the territory to a more international audience. **Thanks to the commitment of some of its partners, the Cluster, under the monicker "TECHforLife" sits at four EIP AHA work tables.** EIP is the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme, an official programme devoted to supporting innovation and SME in the EU.

Finally, **Univerlecco has been identified by Regione Lombardia as the coordinator in an area of excellence for rehabilitation, and a memorandum of understanding was signed with INAIL.** INAIL is the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work. The memorandum focuses on cure and carrying out research concerning people who suffered traumatic accidents and technopathics.

See the [slides presentation](#). For more information, please visit www.univerlecco.it

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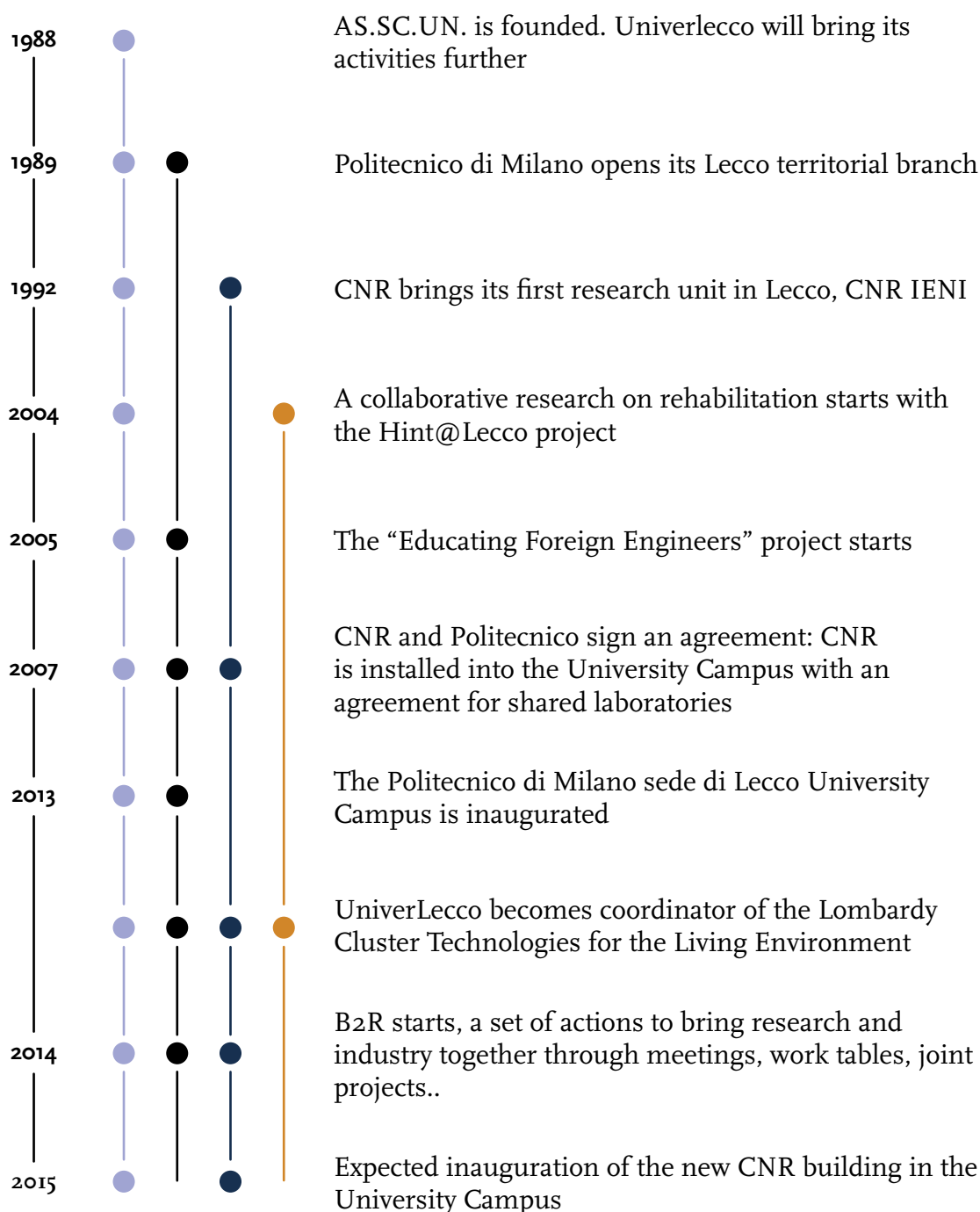
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MILESTONES

Univerlecco, Politecnico di Milano, CNR, **rehabilitation**



RESEARCH PROJECTS

10 years of collaborative research in neuro-rehabilitation

