

# UNICS

UNIVERSITY • ANALYTICS

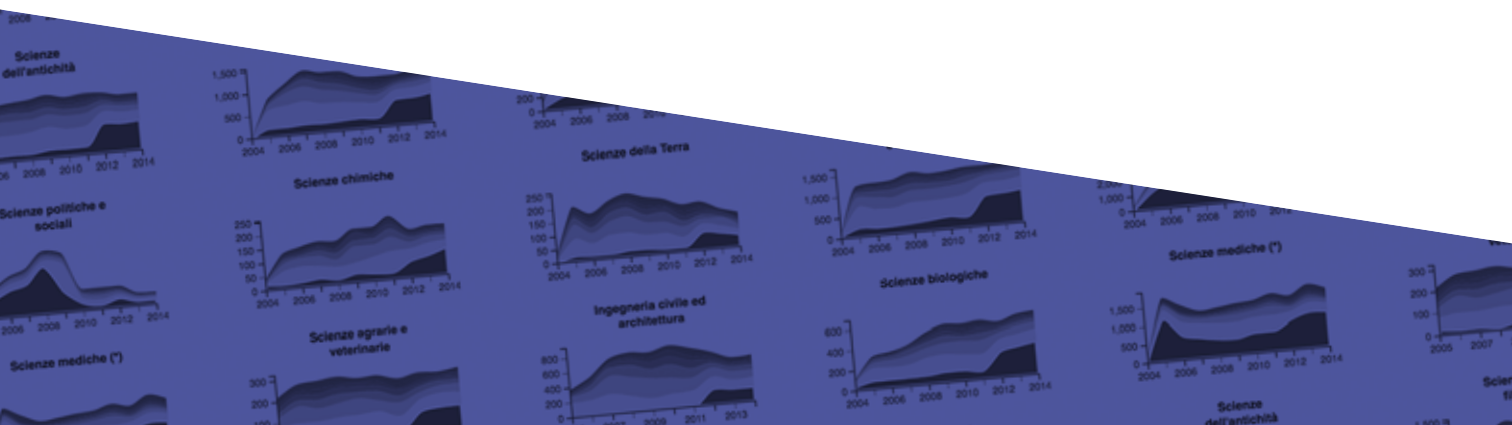
THE  
**OPEN  
PLATFORM**  
FOR  
**HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH**

# WHY UNiCS?

Higher Education and Reserach organizations are at the heart of our socio-economic fabric, alongside schools, hospitals or townhalls. Their importance is set to continue growing driven by the shift towards a knowledge economy.

However, HE&R organizations are facing three major challenges: **a decrease in public funding**, **a growing expectation of accountability** and an **increase in international competition for staff and students**.

UNiCS helps HE&R organizations face these challenges by providing **better access to qualitative knowledge and contextualised data**. This enables universities to **evaluate their potential, benchmark** themselves against their competitors and **refine their strategy**.



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# WHAT MAKES UNiCS UNIQUE?

## **SEMANTICS-BASED**

UNiCS is built according to the Ontology-Based Data Access (OBDA) paradigm, which makes it possible to query heterogeneous data from multiple sources through the vocabulary of an ontology. UNiCS is compliant with the W3C standards and the EU 2020 strategy on Open Data, in line with the vision of Open Science and Innovation. The UNiCS ontology is fully compatible with the VIVO-ISF Ontology and with Common European Research Information Format (CERIF) guidelines.

## **OPEN BY DEFAULT**

We believe that information on publicly funded High Education and Research (HE&R) bodies should be open by default. UNiCS provides open access to a vast catalogue of federated and cleaned open data about the HE&R sector both at the European and the national level.

## **RESEARCH-DRIVEN**

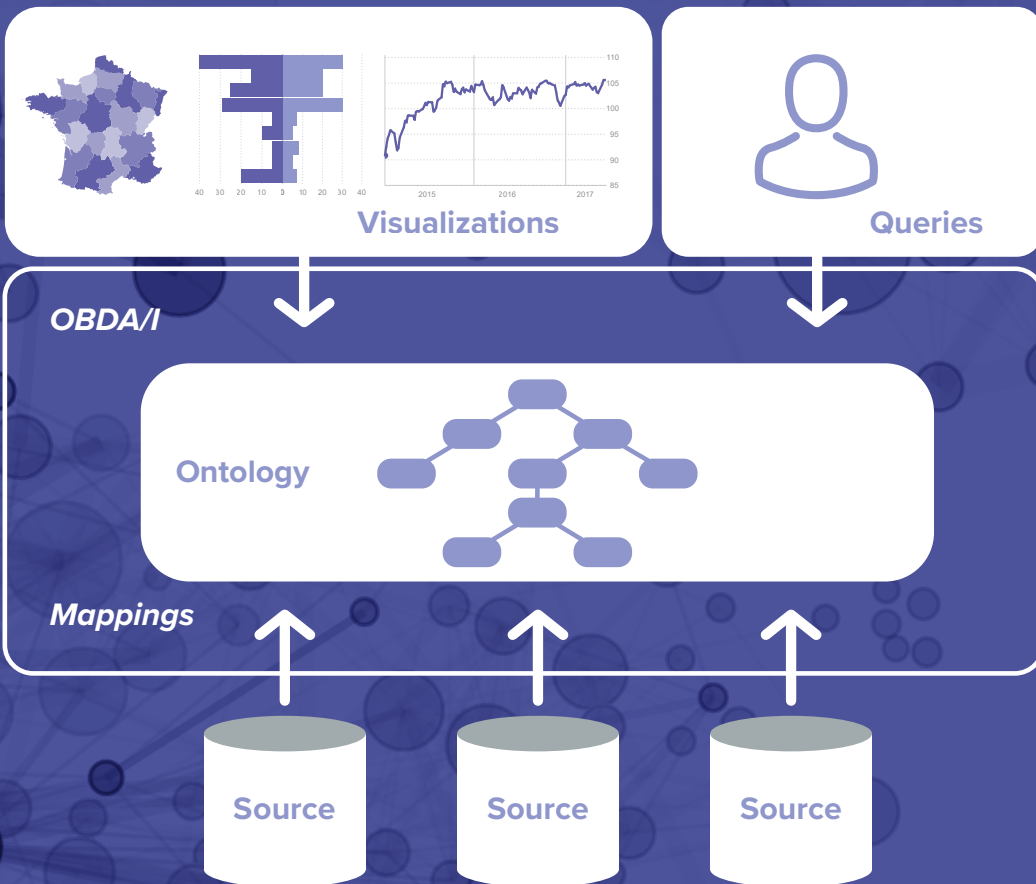
UNiCS is the result of the SIRIS Lab research activities. It has been financed by a number of Horizon-2020 European projects (ERC, ODINE, Marie Curie) and developed in collaboration with academic partners (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, University of Valencia, University of Manchester).

## **LIGHTWEIGHT AND EASY TO MAINTAIN**

UNiCS integrates data stored elsewhere via virtual representations of them: it does not require heavy infrastructures, such as, for instance, in common data warehousing initiatives. Since data in UNiCS are queried directly against the sources, their update is guaranteed upon release by their respective providers.

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# UNiCS SERVICES

UNiCS is developed by SIRIS Academic, a consulting firm specialised in the HE&R sector. It is free and open to all users. SIRIS offers further commercial services that unlock it's potential, by meaningfully exploiting the technology for strategic consulting in the context of HE&R decision making.

## **CUSTOMISED AND CO-DESIGNED**

Being rooted on the “open by default” principle, UNiCS is based on collaborative design and on the usage of digital technologies to share information and support the co-design and co-planning of scientific policies and strategies. UNiCS is not an off-the-shelf solution: we offer comprehensive support to help HE&R organizations build the solution which best suits their specific requirements.

## **UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ALL THE UNDERLYING DATA**

UNiCS always provides full access to the integrated data via a dedicated endpoint. All data coming from open data sources are fully accessible through the UNiCS portal, while the proprietary or access-restricted data are available to the authorised parties via suitable configured endpoints stored in their information systems.



# UNiCS SERVICES

## **COMPELLING VISUALIZATIONS**

Our visualizations are state of the art and are customised for different users and purposes. By transforming raw data into visual and interactive experiences, we can help organizations develop tools to support decision-making, reporting and monitoring.

## **MEANINGFUL FORECASTING**

UNiCS-based forecasting tools help model possible scenarios and explore potential outcomes. These tools are based on cutting-edge technologies, tailored for the HE&R sector and custom designed for specific questions.

## **ANALYTICAL REPORTS**

We provide strategic insights through analytical reports on the basis of the UNiCS dashboards. These reports enhance the value of the data and help ensure that it is put to use in a robust manner. To guarantee the quality of our reports we work with the leading experts in the field.

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age (years)