First coordination meeting for the TRUST project

The first coordination meeting for the European TRUST project, "digital TuRn in EUrope: Strengthening relational reliance through Technology" took place remotely due to Covid, for which the University of Macerata was recently awarded a grant in as part of the Horizon 2020 framework program, the largest program ever implemented by the European Union for research and innovation.

The project, presented by Professor Francesca Spigarelli with the support of the Grant Office, was funded for 998 thousand euros and will be coordinated by the University of Macerata.

The TRUST project provides an interdisciplinary research program and will engage academic and non-academic institutions from Italy, Belgium, Spain, France, Israel and China in understanding the mutual influence between trust and digital technologies. This is a much debated and current topic in a historical moment that sees new technologies and artificial intelligence increasingly present within the decision-making processes. The project was conceived and built within the Department of Law, which since 2018 has been awarded the title of Department of Excellence, awarded by the Ministry of the University precisely for its commitment to interdisciplinary research on the interaction between law and new technologies and on social challenges they trigger.

The focus of the Trust project is on blockchain technology as one of the most relevant forms of "Distributed Ledger Technology", ie systems based on a distributed ledger, capable of creating a peer-to-peer economy - a decentralized model in which people they interact to buy or sell goods and services without intermediation - based on trust. The research program will investigate the contribution of the blockchain towards a peer-to-peer economy without intermediaries, the applications of blockchain in the field of Artificial Intelligence, the creation of collaborative administration models for smart cities and the development of a regulatory framework adapted to the effective integration of blockchain technology in Europe.

The academic partners of the project are the Polytechnic University of Marche in Ancona, the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), the Universidad Carlos III De Madrid (Spain), the Institut Mines-Telecom (France), Ono Academic College (Israel) and Beijing Normal University (China). The non-academic partners (companies and institutions) are Grottini Lab Srl of Porto Recanati, the Montimage Eurl company (France), Edna Pasher Phd and Associates Management Consultants Ltd (Israel), the Region De Murcia (Spain).