



## **Research, biodiversity and international cooperation: Eleonora Cresta's experience in Argentina within the TNE *Moving Italianness* framework**

From 30 October to 4 December 2024, the University of Tuscia strengthened its international academic cooperation through a research mobility period in Argentina, carried out in synergy with the TNE *Moving Italianness* project. The initiative provided a tangible example of how research internationalization can foster knowledge exchange, methodological dialogue, and long-term scientific partnerships.

Eleonora Cresta, a PhD candidate at the Department of Agriculture and Forest Sciences (DAFNE) of UNITUS, took part in the mobility. Her doctoral research focuses on xylematic ambrosia beetles—forest insects that include some of the most harmful invasive species currently spreading across Europe and significantly impacting forest ecosystems.

Her PhD project investigates species diversity and community structure of these beetles in ecosystems with different degrees of naturalness, particularly within Italian protected areas. The aim is to assess whether zoning strategies can effectively contribute to managing invasive species and protecting forest biodiversity.

During her stay at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Eleonora collaborated with researchers from the Center for the Survey and Assessment of Agricultural and Natural Resources (CREAN). The joint work focused on identifying ambrosia and bark beetle specimens belonging to non-native species in Argentina, collected in pine forests of the Córdoba Province.

This experience highlights the importance of scientific cooperation between Italian and Argentine institutions and demonstrates how the TNE *Moving Italianness* project supports international research networks, mobility, and the global circulation of knowledge.

Viterbo, December 16th, 2024

- Project MOVING ITALIANNESS – Project Code: TNE23-00080, CUP: F31I24000320006, funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) under the NextGenerationEU programme as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) – Transnational Educational Initiatives (TNE), Sub-measure T4 ‘Transnational initiatives in education’, Investment 3.4 ‘University teaching and advanced skills’.