TeDIS has been carrying out research activities since 1999 when it was founded within VIU as a research and training center.

TeDIS carries out applied research activities on innovation and competitiveness in the Global Economy and focus its attention on enterprises and SMEs in the industrial districts. TeDIS is conceived as:

- A **research context**, being active partner with respect to specific requests coming from firms and institutions. The center promotes studies and researches under the scientific supervision of a steering committee;
- A **cultural and training context**, by proposing events and meetings.

The reputation of TeDIS has been growing steadily since its launch confirmed by participation in several seminars, workshops and conferences. Such activities allow the center to disseminate the results of TeDIS research activity at national and international level.

TeDIS research activities focus its attention on different research perspectives:

- Creativity, Design and Innovation;
- Innovation in Public Administration, e-government and e-democracy
- Transport Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Industrial districts, technologies and networks (1999-2009)
- SMEs, local clusters and internationalization (1999-2009)

TeDIS has received funds from the local government, the Italian Research Ministry, the Italian Ministry for Innovation, Formez, the European Commission and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).
Private companies supported TeDIS research activity from the beginning. Among these firms present and past supporters are: SAP, Sun Microsystems, Telecom Italia, HP, Lotus.
Joint research projects have been also developed with the Center on Globalization, Governance and Competitiveness of the Duke University and the research center of Banca Intesa (now Intesa-San Paolo).