The shared aims of the VIU members focus the activities of the two research centers on the themes of
competitiveness
and
environment
through innovative forms of education and applied research.

The approach of the research and academic community engaged in VIU activities to the different topics guarantees the exchange and circulation of knowledge and experience.

VIU has two research programs and a new International PhD Academy:

- **TeDIS** Program for Innovation
  TeDIS carries out research activities on innovation and competitiveness in the Globlal Economy.

- **TEN** Program for Sustainability
  Thematic Environmental Networks (TEN) is a program for education and research in the fields of environment and sustainable development.

- **VIU Program on Ageing**
  The VIU Program on Ageing promotes training and dissemination activities on interdisciplinary aspects of population ageing and aims at the transmission of knowledge of research results among students, researchers, professionals and population in general.

- **VIU International PhD Academy**
  The Academy is an annual 7-10 day event. For each edition a scientific program is decided by the Academic Council and PhD candidates from the Member Universities are invited to participate. A program of training and workshops is arranged to run in parallel to the scientific sessions, in order to provide PhD candidates with training in a range of skills that will be useful in developing their research and academic careers.