



> Towards the Bologna Process

*Interview with Arthur METTINGER, President of UNICA,
and Kathrin KORDON, moderator of the UNICA Bologna Laboratory*

The Bologna Process gives UNICA the opportunity to develop into a network, which stands for highest quality in research and education in a European and international context. The measures taken within the network reflect our will to exemplify how the various dimensions of the Bologna Process can be developed and implemented successfully in a closed community. A major point is to make communication within the UNICA network easier. For this reason, the Bologna Laboratory was founded at the beginning of this year. It serves as a major instrument to exchange everyday practices and to disseminate progress reports and major documents on the implementation of the Bologna Process.

Kathrin Kordon, you are the moderator of the UNICA Bologna Laboratory. What initiatives have so far been taken in the Lab?

Apart from the nomination of the Bologna Lab coordinators, one of the first major initiatives taken by the team was to invite the member institutions to produce status quo reports describing the present situation at each UNICA institution. So far, we have successfully collected 22 reports. They have been presented and thoroughly discussed at the first meeting of the UNICA Bologna Lab coordinators on the 2nd and 3rd of July 2004 at the University of Vienna. They can be downloaded from our website.

Due to the fact that the reports are written along a predefined structure dealing with all dimensions of the Bologna Process, they provide a coherent overview of issues as, for example, the ECTS system, the Diploma Supplement, European Masters, Joint Curricula, quality assurance, etc. The discussion at the meeting displayed common developments and interests but they also showed that the current situations are very divergent and that a wide range of measures has to be taken to make the national and regional systems compatible.

How exactly do you make use of the moderated forum on your website, the Bologna Lab Intranet?

The forum allows members to discuss relevant issues and to profit mutually from each other's experience by exchanging ideas, good practices and day-to-day problems. It is a closed area, which means that access is restricted to the Bologna Lab coordinators. The importance of the Intranet was underlined by our webmaster of the Bologna Lab, Roland Steinacher, in his presentation at the coordinators' meeting. At the moment the coordinators bring forward fields of study in which the UNICA universities wish to develop joint curricula via the forum. The members of the two Task Forces which were set up at the meeting will also use the Intranet as their major tool of communication so that relevant developments within the working groups are rendered transparent for all coordinators.

Arthur Mettinger, taking into account the wide range of dimensions of the Bologna Process that has to be dealt with at higher education institutions, what areas constitute UNICA's focal fields of activity at the moment?

Undoubtedly, the development of joint curricula is currently one of the major issues to be discussed before the next ministers' conference in Bergen next year. It can be regarded as a major instrument in achieving the Bologna aims, such as European cooperation, mobility, etc. The precedence of this issue was clearly apparent in the discussions at the first meeting of the coordinators, particularly in the two workshops in which the participants actively discussed issues that have to be considered if UNICA members wish to develop joint programmes.

And were the participants able to reach agreement in some of the issues discussed in the workshop?

On the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the two working groups at this first meeting we successfully managed to agree on certain aspects for the creation of common curricula. For example, it seems to be more reasonable for UNICA to focus on the Master level for the time being, while certainly also bearing doctoral studies in mind. As regards the structure, UNICA prefers 2-year Master programmes, with focus on mobility

↘ **2nd Meeting Bologna
Laboratory Coordinators,
Vienna,
11-12 December 2004.**

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in the 3rd semester. Although agreement has to be reached on certain points, it is very important for UNICA to preserve flexibility in the composition of a common programme. We do not want to exclude any scientific area, but focus on fields of study which are already strong at the UNICA universities. Excellence within the network should be underlined by creating a strong link between teaching and research in these programmes.

Kathrin Kordon, considering these outcomes of the meeting, are there any new initiatives planned which ensure that these ideas can be developed further?

Apart from the fact that the coordinators will be invited to meetings

of this kind on a regular basis (the next meeting is planned for 10-11 December 2005), two Task Forces have been set up to allow smaller working groups to concentrate on particular topics. The "Criteria" Task Force will see to it that cornerstones of UNICA masters are developed and that these criteria are agreed on by the rectors. The second working group, which we have named "Project Management" Task Force, will develop a check list of issues which have to be considered in the development of joint masters.

Arthur Mettinger, has UNICA started any pilot projects in this area yet or are the ideas meant to provide the basis for the development of joint curricula?

Of course, the current reflections are supposed to prepare the ground for future developments. However, we also learn from best practices. For this reason, the so-called UNICA COBRAW project has been launched, one of the first concrete initiatives to develop joint programmes within UNICA. The name derives from the fact that five

UNICA universities are actively involved: the University of COpenhagen, BRuxelles & BRussel, Amsterdam and Wien. Working groups consisting of representatives (rectors, academics and administrative staff) of these four universities develop joint European Master's Programmes in Urban and in European studies respectively.

Do the results of this meeting have an impact on the agenda of the next UNICA General Assembly in Bratislava, 14-16 October 2004?

One of the most central issues to be raised at the next General Assembly is the question of which "delegation of power" should go to the UNICA network. It has to be discussed with the rectors whether we want to set up an accreditation process within the network. If we wish to develop a UNICA label in the long run, it is important to keep up standards and to ensure an ongoing quality control.

> Report on the Bologna Lab Coordinators Meeting in Vienna, 2-3 July 2004

The first meeting of the UNICA Bologna Lab coordinators was organized by Arthur Mettinger and his team at the University of Vienna, 2-3 July 2004. Altogether, 41 representatives of UNICA institutions from 19 different "Bologna" countries participated actively. The conference was organized in a plenary session on the first day, while, on the second day, the participants divided into two smaller working groups dealing with the development of joint programmes at UNICA universities.

As stated by Arthur Mettinger during his welcoming speech, the meeting served primarily to enhance the networking process among the Bologna Lab coordinators, to discuss UNICA's policy on the Bologna Process and to develop a concrete working programme dealing with specific dimensions of the process.



> *Defining focal fields*

The point of departure for the definition of UNICA's focal fields of activity was a series of detailed presentations of the status quo reports regarding the implementation of the Bologna Process.

These reports were complemented by six presentations of ongoing UNICA initiatives.

Kirsti Harg presented the introduction of the new study structure at the University of Oslo. Her outline of what is termed the "Quality Reform of Higher Education" showed that changes in the national legislation combined with financial and political incentives can bring productive results (e.g. new degree system, increased institutional freedom, increased internationalization and student exchange, improved study financing, etc.). The concept of the "COBRAW - Euromaster in Urban Studies" was presented by **Pierre de Maret** (Université Libre de Bruxelles). The first drafts of the "COBRAW – Joint European Master's Programme in European Studies (JEMPES)" were outlined by **Rosita Schjerve-Rindler** (University of Vienna). **Markus Peschl** (University of Vienna) introduced the concept of the "Middle European Interdisciplinary Joint Master Programme in Cognitive Science", a teaching and research network in which all partner universities (Vienna, Budapest, Ljubljana, Zagreb and Bratislava) draw on their strengths in a particular domain in the

interdisciplinary field of cognitive science. **Johan Falk** (University of Stockholm) presented a proposal to create a "UNICA School for Doctoral Studies in Multilingualism", which will allow students pursuing doctoral degrees not only to gain access to advanced courses, but also to be advised by specialists at the various UNICA universities involved. **Sylvia Logar's** (University of Vienna) contribution dealt with issues dealing with the Bologna Process and the challenges of e-learning and distance education, as discussed at the international seminar in Ghent, 4-5 June 2004.

In the two workshops the participants actively discussed possible ways of setting up Curriculum Development Task Forces between UNICA member institutions wishing to develop joint degree programmes. The participants' major tasks were to identify the most common and most desirable fields of study, to compare formal aspects (e.g. structures, durations, etc. of programmes), to identify agreements on institutional development strategies and criteria for quality assurance and control, to decide between the development of new or the adaptation of existing curricula and to create ideas dealing with the development of joint curricula at doctoral level. On the basis of these discussions, recommendations regarding UNICA's curriculum development strategy were put forward by each working group in the concluding plenary session.

Finally, in his concluding report, Arthur Mettinger identified three areas in which the UNICA Bologna Lab coordinators are invited to take concrete action:

- identify fields of studies in which the UNICA institutions wish to develop joint curricula and make an inventory of them via the Bologna Lab Intranet
- set up two Task Forces:
 - a "Project Management" Task Force, which will develop a check list of issues to be considered for the development of joint programmes;
 - a "Criteria" Task Force, which will put together the cornerstones of UNICA masters.

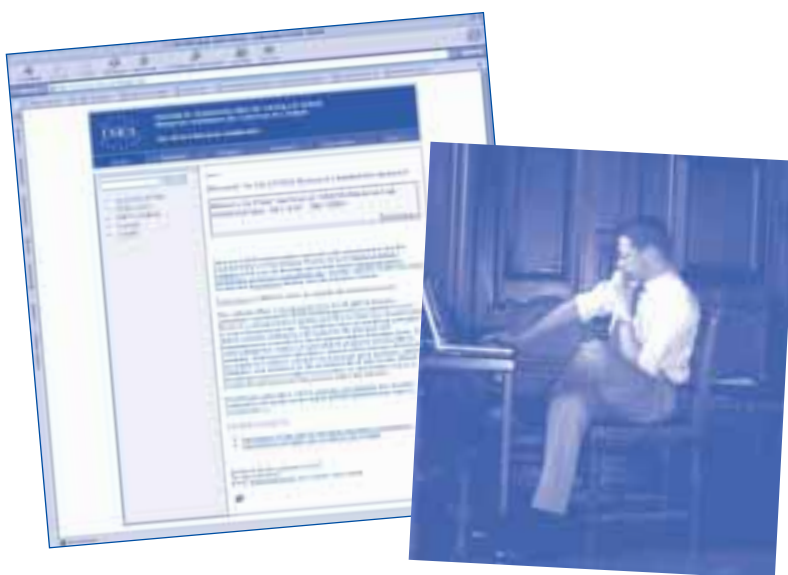
These cornerstones will then have to be agreed on by the rectors; first results of these working groups should be presented at the next UNICA General Assembly in Bratislava, 14-16 October.

On the whole, this first meeting provided a highly motivating basis for UNICA Bologna Lab coordinators to continue to contribute actively to the creation of a Common European Higher Education Area by joining forces and taking further steps to enhance the implementation of the Bologna Process at UNICA universities.

> *The moderated forum, a valuable tool*

During the meeting, the webmaster of the Bologna Lab, **Roland Steinacher**, presented the moderated forum on the website, focusing on its function and its technical features, which aim at facilitating the communication between the coordinators.

The conclusions, recommendations, presentations and other relevant documents of this conference can be downloaded on the UNICA Bologna Lab website:
www.univie.ac.at/bologna-lab



> *Scholarly Collaboration*

Wim VANDENBUSSCHE and Sonja JANSSENS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, visit University College Dublin

"The major goal of this visit was to explore the possibilities of scholarly collaboration on the levels of research and education between the linguistics departments of

University College Dublin and Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

During our visit, meetings were held with members of the administrative staff coordinating international collaboration and members of the linguistics department.

The visit led to an expected outcome: from the winter semester of 2004 onwards, the teams will start with an exchange of guest lecturers.

A Socrates agreement has been signed by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the University College Dublin."

> *Elisabeth Marlovitz, University of Vienna*

How the International Relations Office deals with the ERASMUS student exchange programme (outgoing) – a comparison between University College Dublin and University of Vienna

"The goal of this exchange was to show the different ways in which universities

can handle the ERASMUS process – from the point of view of outgoing students. It became clear that the process – although there are many differences – is quite similar at UCD and at the University of Vienna.

After going through all the information, I was able to identify small differences

that made me re-think the processes at the University of Vienna and how to enhance parts of them. Suggestions for improvements have been developed."

> *Student Conference Esmee DUMAN Universiteit van Amsterdam*

Project Co-coordinator for the UNICA Student Conference in Amsterdam visits

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
LONDON

"On the 28th of August I visited Rachel Aucott at the University College London.

The purpose of my visit was to discuss the problems, the success and the whole organisation of the UNICA Student Conference, because London had organized it in April 2002.

One very important subject was the time schedule: when to send the invitations, to launch the website, to select the chairs.

We also exchanged ideas on important practical issues, such as guest speakers (you always need backup, from your own university too); to arrange an expert

meeting for the chairs before the conference; stick to the principle that no switching in delegations is allowed; send a pack of information to every participant; training of the chairs, the voting, etc.

It was very good to talk to my colleague Rachel Aucott, especially because she had done a lot of the work herself."

FREIE UNIVERSITÄT
BERLIN

"Together with Jerke van der Woerd, I also met Virginia MOUKOULI who was responsible for organizing the first UNICA Student Conference in 2000 at the Freie Universität Berlin. Since this conference was a success we went to Berlin to ask Virginia what difficulties she had encountered both in preparing for the conference and in the conference itself, we also hoped

to get feedback on the preparations for the 2004 conference.

Virginia had experienced that a lot of time was spent, and wasted, on formulating definitions and discussing procedures. We hope to avoid this on the one hand by formulating definitions in the online discussion which will take place on the website, and on the other hand by informing the participants in time with regard to the scenario method and the procedures that come with it.

These and other, more detailed, subjects have given us great insight into the preparation and we will use them as best as we can.

I would like to thank the Freie Universität Berlin, and especially Ms Virginia Moukoui and Mrs Eva Lack, the Head of the ERASMUS Office, for the hospitality during our stay and we look forward to welcoming their delegates to Amsterdam in October."

WORKING GROUPS, PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES

> *Science parks & incubators, joint investment fund, Brussels, June 7th, 2004*

The European Investment Fund (EIF) arranged a meeting on June 7th in Brussels to discuss the Technology Transfer Accelerator (TTA).

Pat Frain, Director NovaUCD, University College Dublin, chair of the working group Science Parks & Incubators, and **Indrek Tammeaid**, Portfolio Manager, Research Affairs of the University of Helsinki, represented the UNICA network.

In presenting the proposal for the TTA it was recognized that while European research is world class, we are lagging behind the US in terms of commercialization. However, it was emphasized that in seeking a solution we should choose a model that works for Europe and not simply mimic the US. A proposal was presented involving a public/private fund of between 50 and 100 million, which would operate in the Life Sciences sector.

A detailed project planning schedule for achieving various milestones in the project was proposed, including benchmarking, mapping of IPR systems, identification of participating centres, legal and tax structure, management team, financing and EIF involvement. It was projected that an outline structured vehicle would be prepared by April 2005.

EIF will continue to further develop the pilot proposal. 30-40 organisations will be contacted and sent questionnaires to gather information on the level of technology transfer, the technology transfer process, their involvement in seed funds and innovation clusters etc.

Pat Frain will keep the UNICA network informed. A meeting of the UNICA Science Parks & Incubators working group will be organized beginning 2005 to discuss further initiatives.

To see the EIF report, please go to the UNICA website www.ulb.ac.be/unica/

> *City of Lausanne, UNICA honor chair 2004-2005, "Social and political sciences"*

Thanks to the financial contribution and the interest shown by the City of Lausanne, a "City of Lausanne UNICA Honor Chair" has been created for four years for the University of Lausanne and the UNICA network.

This year, the award will be given to the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences which has just celebrated its centenary.

From September 1st 2004 until February 28th 2005, Prof. **Kris Deschouwer**, of the Faculty of Political Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, will give a class on "Consociational aspects of the European political system".

In the second semester, Prof. **Paul Magnette**, Director of the Institute for European Studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, will lecture on the "Institutional aspects of the European Union".

> *UNICA at the 5th international conference on higher education and disability*

On the occasion of the 5th International Conference on Higher Education and Disability in Innsbruck, UNICA disability officers met for the first time on July 29th, 2004. The meeting was chaired by **Pawel Wdowik** (University of Warsaw).

Maria Schmidt-Dengler (University of Vienna) welcomed the participants on behalf of UNICA, President Arthur Mettinger and Secretary General Kris Dejonckheere, who had supported the meeting. After a brief introduction to the network, its history,

profile and activities, the participants were asked to introduce themselves, describe the activities at their universities for disabled students and staff, and last but not least, to outline what they expected from the newly established working group and the network as such.

Bruna Consarelli (University Roma Tre) kindly offered to host the next meeting in the beginning of 2005.

→ **The UNICA project selected**

"BEPIQUA, "Benchmarks and Performances Indicators for Quality Assurance", submitted under Socrates Accompanying Measures programme and coordinated by Andreas Mallouppas, University of Cyprus, is accepted by the European Commission!!!

> **UNICA Office**

Planning to travel to Brussels? Please send us a mail.
You will be welcomed with a smile and coffee or tea will be waiting for you!

On the UNICA website you will find all the information on how to get to the UNICA Office. Take advantage of having the UNICA secretariat in the capital of Europe!

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> *F@ir Publishing and F@ir Reading*



Following on the success of the first seminar on scholarly communication, Unica will be organizing a second seminar, entitled "F@ir Publishing and F@ir Reading" to take place in Vienna, on 25-26 November 2004.

> **Professor J.-P. Devroey, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts, Université Libre de Bruxelles, will be chairing this seminar:**

What is the significance of the seminar and of the title "F@ir Publishing and F@ir Reading"?

Scientific publications not only serve to disseminate research results. They also constitute a tool for evaluating the quality of research teams. The way in which the scientific publishing market is organised has implications with regard to access to, and the dissemination and archiving of scientific publications, as well as to the level of quality and diversity of these publications. The effectiveness of the current scientific publishing system has been debated in the scientific community for some time and the question is now being taken up by other actors on the market. Just to mention two recent initiatives: in early 2004 the UK Parliament's Science and Technology Committee set up an inquiry into scientific publications to examine the provision of scientific journals to the academic community and wider public (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/a/cm/cmsctech.htm>).

The European Commission has just launched a study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe.

What will the UNICA seminar contribute to the debate? The seminar will investigate what might facilitate or hinder access to scientific information: the research assessment metrics and policies, the economics of scholarly publication, the legal aspects - the need to reconcile authors' rights and the economic interests of publishers. It will address what is being done in universities to preserve access to scientific information. The invited speakers will raise the question of whether commercial interests and scientific careers contradict with fair publishing and fair reading or not.

Who is the seminar intended for? It is intended for academic decision makers in charge of research, head librarians and university publishers of the UNICA universities.

What is the expected output from the seminar? The seminar will lead to recommendations and possible convergent actions by the universities in the UNICA network. It is therefore crucial that the key actors involved in research assessment, information access and publication in the UNICA universities be present and participate in the debate in order to achieve conclusions that best suit the scientific community.

Note that the conclusions and recommendations of the first seminar on scholarly communication were sent to the European Commission to raise awareness about current scientific publication issues (http://www.ulb.ac.be/unica/Sch_seminar_Recommendations.pdf).

> *F@ir Publishing and F@ir Reading*

*UNICA Seminar, Vienna
25-26 November 2004*

Thursday 25 November 2004

- 9.00** Registration
- 9.30-10.00** Opening by Prof. Georg Winckler, Rector of the Universität Wien and Prof. Arthur Mettinger, President of the UNICA network
- 10.00-12.45** Session I
Publication and Research Policies
- 14.00-17.30** Session II
Economic aspects of scholarly communication

Friday 26 November 2004

- 9.00-12.30** Session III
Scholarly electronic publishing initiatives
- 13.30-16.30** Session IV
Towards a fair scholarly publishing and reading environment
- 16.30-17.00** Conclusions and actions

Invited speakers:

- Prof. Georg WINCKLER, Rector of the Universität Wien, Austria
- Prof. Wolfgang GLANZEL, *Steunpunt O&O Statistieken and Katholiek Universiteit Leuven, Belgium*
- Dr. Sijbolt NOORDA, Vice Chairman of the SURF Foundation and President of the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Prof. Jean-Claude GUEDON, *Université de Montréal, Canada, and Open Society Institute*
- Helmut HARTMANN, *Austrian GASCO Representative and National Consortia Coordinator, University of Graz, Austria*
- Yves DUMONT, *Scientific Advice and Governance, European Commission-DG Research*
- Dr. DOBRATZ, *Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Germany*
- Herbert HRACHOVEC, *University of Vienna, Austria*
- Miha PETERNEL, *Faculty of Computer and Information Science, Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia*

Programme, registration forms available from

www.ulb.ac.be/unica/3_seminars.html#scholarly