



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

LET'S UNICA!

WORK PLAN 2014-2015



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UNICA's four focal points for the academic year 2014-2015

1. Taking a look ahead: UNICA Mission Statement

The year 2015 will see UNICA celebrating its past and taking an important step in the future. January 2015 will see the Network's **25th founding anniversary** and at the end of the year UNICA members will need to take decisions on who will lead UNICA in the near future: the time for **UNICA President and Steering Committee elections**.

The 25th anniversary of UNICA is not only a festive occasion to rejoice and to highlight the Network's achievements, but also a timely reminder of changes that took place in the European Higher Education over the past 25 years and a commitment to reflect on the consequences of these changes. In this context, to take stock of the dynamic development of the European Higher Education Area and to ensure that the Network's strategic focus corresponds most accurately to the needs and aspirations of its members, UNICA Steering Committee has engaged in works on the **revision of the UNICA Mission Statement**. In the next academic year, the Steering Committee will hold consultations on the revised Mission Statement with the academic leadership of UNICA member universities and representatives of UNICA Working Groups with the final aim of presenting the new Mission Statement at the UNICA General Assembly 2015.

2. Getting right to the point: enhancing communication WITH and FOR the members

Effective and efficient communication is key for the UNICA members to stay updated and interested in the Network's activities and a requisite for promoting UNICA and its members externally. Nowadays, much of this communication is happening online and in order to have a say in the continuously changing web world, continuous adaptation and taking advantage of the latest technology the users expect is of paramount importance. The **redesigned UNICA website**, to be completed in early 2015, will have an improved functionality and interactivity and will contain features that will allow the users to quickly find the searched information (e.g. a home page event search engine, transparent event pages, member-only intranet components). The new website will have a "mobile-friendly" navigation and will be integrated with UNICA database and social media.

3. Experts wanted: mapping Higher Education expertise within the Network

Positioning the Network as an important stakeholder in the European Higher Education Area is one of the core tasks of UNICA. We fulfil this function not only through the dissemination of outcomes of UNICA meetings, but also by actively participating in the

European Commission-funded projects and service contracts. During the implementation of the Higher Education Reform III service contract (2008-2013), nearly 70 experts from UNICA member universities were involved as speakers or trainers. UNICA plans to continue to promote the existing expertise within the Network more efficiently by performing a more detailed mapping. To achieve this objective, UNICA online database will be complemented with an "experts' database" component, which will allow the experts from UNICA member universities specializing in different Higher Education domains to register and express interest in participating in projects as speaker and/or trainer.

4. Fast tracking competence development of university staff

Internationalisation process has exerted an impact on almost every job performed at the university: the roles of university professionals are being redesigned and new skills and competences are required. At the same time, with their institution's stress on developing international outlook and their new internationally-oriented job profiles, university professionals often experience difficulty in expanding their international experience and finding appropriate, but at the same time affordable training. This is where **staff mobility weeks** and **job shadowing** opportunities, co-financed through the **Erasmus staff mobility scheme**, come into play: they offer a chance to both guest participants and representatives of the host institution to acquire international experience and learn from peers' good practices.

Convinced of the major role of continuous competence enrichment of university staff for successful internationalisation, UNICA has taken the commitment to maintain the **IMOTION platform (www.staffmobility.eu)** which was developed in the framework of the completed 1-year project **IMOTION: Integration and Promotion of Staff Training Courses at Universities across Europe**, funded within the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. Apart from promoting the idea of staff training at regular meetings of UNICA Working Groups, special events are also envisaged for the next year: one-day training for UNICA member universities interested in organising a staff training week as well as a meeting for university recruitment officers.

UNICA activities 2014/2015 according to clusters

Internationalisation & Mobility



- **UNICA IRO meeting**
 - UNICA IRO meeting 2015, Vilnius University, 5-6 May 2015
 - Preparation of the UNICA IRO meeting 2016, *venue and dates to be announced*
- **International PR & Communication**
 - 5th UNICA PR & Communication Workshop, Sapienza University of Rome, 21-22 May 2015
- **IMOTION platform**
 - Maintenance, management and further development of the IMOTION staff mobility platform (*www.staffmobility.eu*)
 - One-day training on the organisation of staff mobility weeks, *venue and date to be announced*
- **Summer & Winter Schools**
 - Further development of the UNICA Summer & Winter Schools portal
 - 2nd UNICA Summer & Winter Organisers meeting, March 2015 (*exact dates and venue to be announced*)
- **Cooperation with alumni relations units**
 - project development activities with a special focus on linking university alumni relations units to business/industry and increasing the employability of graduates
- **UNICA Student Conference**
 - Follow-up of the UNICA Student Conference 2014 and preparation of the UNICA Student Conference 2016
- **UNICA at the 27th EAIE Conference** "A wealth of nations", Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), Glasgow, 15-18 September 2015

EC PROJECTS – INTERNATIONALISATION & MOBILITY

UNICA as Partner:

- **EGRACONS – European GRAding CONversion System – Practical Approach to Improving ECTS Implementation in Europe**, under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects; project period: 1/10/2012 – 30/9/2015
Relevant UNICA Working Group: IRO Group & EduLab; **Coordinator:** U. Ghent; **Aim:** Achieving a simple and unified interpretation and implementation of the ECTS grade conversion tables as recommended in the EC's ECTS User's guide since 2009; **UNICA's role:** WP leader: Dissemination; **Partners:** Sapienza U. of Rome, U. of Lausanne, Vilnius U., U. of Warsaw (all 4 UNICA members), SGroup Network, U. de Liège, U. of Rouen, U. of Leon, U. of Gothenburg, U. of Essex, Justus Liebig U. Giessen, Stichting Hoger Onderwijs Nederland, Den Haag; **Project website:** www.egracons.eu
- **EM-ACE – Promoting Erasmus Mundus Towards European Students: Activate, Communicate, Engage** under Erasmus Mundus Action 3: National Structures; project period: 01/09/2012 – 30/08/2015; 3 years) **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** IRO Group, PR & Communication Group; **Coordinator:** Sapienza U. of Rome (UNICA member); **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP 2: Developing promotional material and WP4: Promotional campaign; **Aim:** By tailoring the promotion of Erasmus Mundus towards European students, the project aims at increasing both quantity and quality of received applications for Erasmus Mundus study programmes; **Partners:** Campus France - The Knowledge Partnership – Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association; **Project website:** www.em-ace.eu/en/

Education



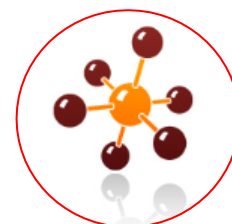
- **UNICA Bologna Lab gives way to UNICA EduLab!**
 - Student-Centred Learning and... Teaching, 15 years of the Bologna Process implementation, and strategic considerations related to MOOCs will be discussed at the 1st UNICA EduLab meeting, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, 5-6 December 2014. The UNICA EduLab will build on the outcomes of the UNICA Bologna Lab Coordinators Group, which was active for 10 years (2003-2013).

EC PROJECTS – EDUCATION

(UNICA as Partner):

- **PASCL: Peer Assessment of Student Centred Learning** under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects, project period: 01/10/2013 – 01/07/2016 (3 years); **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** EduLab; **Coordinator:** European Students' Union (ESU); **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP4: Piloting the Peer Assessment and WP7: Exploitation; **Aim:** Developing a peer assessment framework (PASCL guidelines) for "student-centeredness" of HE institutions and a European recognition award for student-centred institutions that would confirm that an institution has successfully incorporated the elements of student-centred learning in its teaching & learning strategy; **Partners:** UNICA, National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB), Finnish Institute for Educational Research - U. of Jyväskylä (JYU), Central European U. (CEU), Melius s.r.l., Knowledge Innovation Centre (KIC); **Project website:** www.pascl.eu

Research & Development



- **UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers meetings**
 - 9th EU Research Liaison Officers meeting, University of Paris VI Pierre & Marie Curie, 20-21 November 2014
 - Preparation of the 10th EU Research Liaison Officers meeting (2015)
- **UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS: Seminar for Heads of Doctoral Schools & Programmes and practitioners in doctoral supervision**
 - 6th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS & PRIDE project workshop, CAAS U. of Zagreb, Dubrovnik, 2-6 September 2015
- **Employability of doctorate holders**
 - project development activities on increasing transferable skills and employability of doctorate holders in Europe
- **Summer School for doctoral candidates**
 - Organisation of a summer school for doctoral candidates from UNICA and Coimbra Group member universities, *venue and dates to be announced*

EC PROJECTS – RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

UNICA as Coordinator:

- **Enhancing quality of doctoral education at Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan – UZDOC** under TEMPUS IV – Structural Measures; project period: 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2016 (36 months) **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** PhD Officers Group; **Coordinator:** UNICA; **Aim:** Enhancing the quality of doctoral education in Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan, in line with the principles of the European Higher Education Area; **Partners:** U. of Zagreb, Sapienza U. of Rome, Comenius U. in Bratislava (all three UNICA members), U. of Granada, Athens U. of Economics and Business (Greece), Tashkent Financial Institute, State Institute of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan, Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, Berdakh Qaraqalpaq State U., Karshi State University, Ministry of HE of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan); **Project website:** www.uzdoc.eu

UNICA as Partner:

- **EU-CHINA DOC: Enhancing the Visibility of European Higher Education and Strengthening the Dialogue and Cooperation with Chinese Stakeholders in the Field of Doctoral Education**, under Erasmus Mundus Action 3; project period: 1/10/2013 – 30/9/2016 (3 years); **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** PhD Officers Group; **Coordinator:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB, UNICA member), **Aim:** Increasing awareness and knowledge about European Higher Education among Chinese HE actors and strengthening dialogue and cooperation between European and Chinese stakeholders in the field of doctoral education, training and research; **Partners:** UNICA, U. Of Vienna, Stockholm U. (both UNICA members), U. of Tampere, Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (BCECC), China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), Beijing Normal University(BNU), Peking University (PKU), Shanghai Jiao Tong University, (SJTU), Southwest University China (SWU). **UNICA's role:** Dissemination and Exploitation; **Project website:** www.euchinadoc.com
- **PRIDE: Professionals in Doctoral Education: Supporting skills development to better contribute to an European knowledge society** under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects; project period: 1/10/2013 – 30/9/2016 (3 years); **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** PhD Officers Group; **Coordinator:** U. of Vienna (UNICA member); **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of Dissemination Work Package and responsible for the organisation of the training course **Aim:** Supporting skills development of

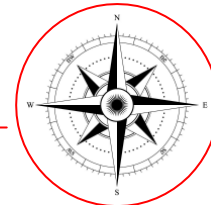
administrative staff in doctoral education in order to provide better support to PhD supervisors, PhD candidates and external stakeholders; Partners: UNICA, U. of Zagreb, Humboldt U. zu Berlin, Vrije U. Brussel (VUB), Comenius U. In Bratislava, U. NOVA de Lisboa, Tallinn U. (all 6 UNICA members), Mediterranean Universities Union, Fundación Universidad Empresa of the Region of Murcia; **Project website:** www.pride-project.eu

- **GENOVATE: Gender Equality Action Plan** (FP7); **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** EU Research Liaison Officers & Equal Opportunities; **Coordinator:** U. of Bradford; **Aim:** Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men at universities by encouraging a more gender-aware management in research and scientific bodies of HE institutions; **Partners:** U. Complutense de Madrid, Ankara U. (both UNICA members), Federico II U. of Naples, U. College Cork, Trnava U.; **UNICA's role:** Dissemination; Member of International Advisory Board; **Project website:** www.genovate.eu

Policy & Strategy



- **Rectors Seminars: platforms for the representatives of university leadership**
 - Seminars in the framework of the UNICA General Assembly 2014, Stockholm University, 23-25 October 2014
 - Informal Rectors meeting in the framework of the EUA Annual Assembly 2015, University of Antwerp, 16 April 2015
 - Rectors Seminar 2015, May/June 2015 (*venue and exact dates to be announced*)
- **Scholarly Communication**
 - 7th UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar: *Visibility, Visibility, Visibility*, Sapienza University of Rome, 27 -28 November 2014
- **UNICA-MED: cooperation with Southern Mediterranean universities**
 - Project-based cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean, UNIMED, Euro-Med Mobilities, Téthys, and ARELEN;
 - Preparation of the 3rd Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (as members of the Conference Steering Committee)
 - Identifying relevant funding programmes and developing project proposals.



Mission statement and link with the society

- **Revisiting UNICA Mission Statement** (*more on page 3*)
- **UNICA Green Academic Footprint (UGAF)**
 - 5th UGAF Workshop on environmental sustainability outreach at universities, Freie Universität Berlin, 25-27 March 2015;
 - Jury role in the International Green Gown Awards 2014 (final of the competition and award ceremony in November 2014)
 - Preparation of the UGAF Green School on sustainable gardening
 - Dissemination & Promotion, joint actions in the framework of European-wide campaigns, identifying relevant funding programmes and developing project proposals

EC PROJECTS – MISSION STATEMENT AND LINK WITH THE SOCIETY

UNICA as Coordinator:

- **RUMI: Réseau des Universités Marocaines pour l'Enseignement Inclusif (Network of Moroccan Universities for Inclusive Education)** under TEMPUS IV – Structural Measures; project period: 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2016; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA-MED & Equal Opportunities; **Coordinator:** UNICA; **Aim:** Establishing a network of Moroccan universities to promote procedures and good practices in the field of inclusive education and equal opportunities in Morocco; **Partners:** UNICA (Coordinator), 9 Moroccan universities, U. Roma Tre, Vrije U. Brussel (both UNICA members), Erasmus Access Network, Compostela Group, Fontys, U. Montpellier 3, Ministry of HE (Morocco), Minister of Solidarity, Woman, Family and Social Development (Morocco), Observatoire National du Developpement Humain – ONDH, Moroccan Association of Law Students. **Project website:** www.rumi-project.org

UNICA as Partner:

- **SAVES: Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings** (EC Intelligent Energy-Europe); project period: 04/2014 - 03/2017; **Relevant UNICA WG:** UGAF; **Coordinator:** National Union of Students UK; **Aim:** SAVES aims at promoting energy saving behaviour among the students living in dormitories by putting them in a competition to save the most energy by simple everyday actions; **UNICA's role:** Dissemination **Partners:** U. of Athens, U. of Cyprus (both UNICA members), Vilnius Gediminas Technical U., De Montfort U., Studentbostadsforetagen; **Web:** www.saves.nus.org

Collaboration with university networks and HE organisations

In the academic year 2014-2015, UNICA aims to continue and to enhance the cooperation with peer university networks and other Higher Education organisations.

- **Collaboration with the European University Association (EUA)** - UNICA as collective associate member
 - in the framework of the Euro-Arab Conference in Higher Education and the UNICA-MED initiative,
 - in the context of the UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS with the EUA Council of Doctoral Education.
- **Collaboration with other organisations**
 - with Scholars At Risk (SAR, UNICA as affiliate member) and Magna Charta Observatory in joint initiatives related to ethics and values in international partnerships,
 - with Coimbra Group of Universities (CGU) on the project of a joint event for doctoral candidates (October/November 2015),
 - with European Association for International Education (EAIE) and the NESS Expert Community (European Summer Schools) on the further development of the UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal,
 - with the Santander Group and the Compostela Group of Universities in the framework of EC projects (EGRACONS & RUMI) and the UNICA-SGroup-Compostela Joint Workshops,
 - with the Erasmus Student Network and European Students' Union in the framework of projects (MapAbility/ExchangeAbility, PASCL),
 - with EUPRIO (European Universities PR & Information Officers) in the framework of the activities of the UNICA PR & Communication Group.

General Assembly & Steering Committee meetings

- UNICA General Assembly 2015, October 2015 (TBC)
- **5 UNICA Steering Committee meetings:**
 1. Brussels, 3 February 2015,
 2. Vilnius University, 6 May 2015 in the framework of the IRO meeting,
 3. September 2015 (*venue and exact date to be announced*),
 4. two meetings in the framework of the UNICA General Assembly 2015, October 2015 (*venue and exact dates to be announced*).



Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

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