



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

President's Report

UNICA ACTIVITY REPORT

academic year 2013-2014



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ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014 IN NUMBERS

12 UNICA meetings and workshops brought together more than **360 participants**



UNICA website has on average attracted **15,500 different visitors per month** (an increase of 4,500 from the previous year)



Launched in February 2014, the UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal lists **more than 180 programmes** from **23 UNICA member universities** and their partners



Created in the framework of the UNICA-led IMOTION project funded through the Lifelong Learning Programme, the **www.staffmobility.eu** platform lists **more than 50 training schemes** for university administrative and technical staff. The platform is **linked to the official website of the European Commission.**

UNICA ON THE EUROPEAN & INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Our core task as a Network is to make sure that the views and recommendations voiced by our member universities are given prominence in the process of developing policies and programmes for European higher education and research. We continue to enhance the visibility of the Network on the European and international scene by participating and implementing the EC-funded projects in accordance with the UNICA policy for projects. At the same time, UNICA welcomes the project proposals from the members and assists them in the development of their own projects and dissemination of projects results.

UNICA seeks to support its member institutions in developing comprehensive international strategies and strategic partnerships and provides a forum for discussion on the internationalisation process of Higher Education. While involving its members in project activities aimed at orienting education systems of the third countries to the best practices of the European Higher Education Area, UNICA commits to adequately respond to the needs of UNICA members related to the challenges of internationalisation through the organisation of dedicated thematic sessions.

Acknowledging the importance of communication and the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience with other key higher education stakeholders at the European and international level, UNICA places great importance in the cooperation with other networks and HE organisations such as European University Association (EUA), EUA Council for Doctoral Education, Santander Group and Compostela Group of Universities.

UNICA AND EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

- UNICA, member of the EUA's Council for Doctoral Education, organizes **UNICA PhD MASTER CLASSES**: Prof. Melita Kovačević, University of Zagreb, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee and Chair of the EUA-CDE, has been Member of the UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS Organising Committee. Prof. Alexandra Bitusikova, EUA-CDE Senior Adviser, was part of the Experts Team at the 2014 MASTER CLASS edition: 5th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS: *Linking Master with*

PhD: success factors for effective preparation of students for PhD candidacy, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies, University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, 31 August - 3 September 2014.

- Informal UNICA Rectors meeting took place in the framework of the **EUA Annual Conference: *Changing Landscapes in Learning and Teaching***, Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), 3 April 2014
- Luciano Saso (Deputy Rector for International Mobility Sapienza University of Rome, Member of UNICA Steering Committee and Chair of the UNICA-MED Group) and Kris Dejonckheere (UNICA Secretary General) were invited to participate in the **2nd Euro-Arab Conference on Higher Education: *Strengthening Arab-Euro University Collaboration: The importance of regional mobility***, organised jointly by the Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT), EUA, University of Barcelona and the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), Amman, Jordan, 10-12 June 2014. Luciano Saso and Arnaud Raynouard (Vice-President for International Affairs, Université Paris-Dauphine) equally assumed the roles of Conference speakers.

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORGANISATIONS' ACTIVITIES

- Kris Dejonckheere (UNICA Secretary General) took part in the **Scholars At Risk triennial Global Congress**, 10 April 2014 in Amsterdam, co-hosted by Scholars at Risk, the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF), University of Amsterdam (UvA), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), and Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (HvA).
- Kris Dejonckheere (UNICA Secretary General) chaired the **SAR session "Partnerships: incorporating transparency and reporting processes into values pledges"** at the 26th EAIE Conference in Prague. The session, featuring the presentations from Sinead O'Gorman (Scholars At Risk Europe); Naa Ayikailey Adamafio (U.of Ghana); Gøril Mellem (U. of Oslo) explored a proposal to minimise the legal, financial, reputational and other risks related to international higher education partnerships by developing a standard use of a memorandum of understanding on values.

Completed EC Projects (UNICA as Coordinator):

> **IMOTION - Integration and Promotion of Staff Training Courses at Universities across Europe**, under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Accompanying Measures; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** All Groups; **Project period:** 1/10/2012–30/9/2014; **Aim:** Creating an online platform where HEIs can promote their staff training activities, university staff – find appropriate training, job shadowing, or apply as an expert – and participants – give their feedback on the training they attended; **Coordinator:** UNICA; **Consortium:** Sapienza U. of Rome (UNICA member), U. Ghent, Santander Group, Compostela Group, European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC); **Project website:** www.staffmobility.eu. As of October 2014, the portal has nearly 200 registered users and lists more than 50 training weeks for administrative and technical staff from European HEIs. It is also linked to the official website of the European Commission. *Find out more about the project's Final Conference on page 12!*



Completed EC Projects (UNICA as Partner)

> **UMEI: "Universités du Maghreb: Enseignement inclusif" (Maghreb Universities: Inclusive Education)** under Tempus programme; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA-MED Group and Equal Opportunities Group; **Project period:** 03/10/2011 - 02/10/2013, 2 years; **Aim:** Improving the access to universities in the Maghreb for 3 target groups of students with special needs (related to economic insecurity, geographical origin or disability); **Consortium:** Erasmushogeschool Brussel (Coordinator), UNICA, Vrije U. Brussel, Comenius U. Bratislava (both UNICA members), U. Abdelmalek Essaâdi, Erasmus Student Network, U. de Santiago de Compostela, Compostela Group, U. Paul-Valéry (Montpellier III), European Access Network, Fontys/ Opleidingscentrum Speciale



Onderwijszorg, U. Hassan II Mo Hammedia Casabalanca, U. Ibn Zohr, Association de développement local méditerranéen, Association Louis Braille, U. de Sousse, U. de Sfax, U. Mentouri Constantine, U. de Béjaïa, U. Aboubekr Belkaid; **UNICA's role:** Dissemination & Quality Assessment;

Project website: <https://sites.google.com/site/projettempusumei/>

Ongoing EC Projects (UNICA as Coordinator):

> **BE-TWIN 2: ECVET-ECTS - Building Bridges and Overcoming Differences, continuation of the Be-Twin project** under Leonardo da Vinci: Multilateral Projects for the Transfer of Innovation (TOI); **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA EduLab (former Bologna Lab); **Project period:** 01/10/2012 – 31/09/2014 (2 years); **Aim:** Adapting the methodology developed previously within the Be-Twin project; **Consortium:** Centro Produttività Veneto (Coordinator); UNICA, Regione Veneto – Direzione Formazione, Ufficio Scolastico Regionale per il Veneto, FONDAZIONE CRUI per e Università Italiane CCIP, Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Paris, 3s research laboratory, Fachhochschule Technikum Wien – Höhere; Technische Bundeslehr- und Versuchsanstalt St.Pölten; Albeda College; KCH Services; **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP3: Adaptation of Methodology (together with experts from Charles University in Prague); **Project website:** www.be-twin2.eu



> **Enhancing quality of doctoral education at Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan – UZDOC** under TEMPUS IV – Structural Measures; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA PhD Officers Group; **Project period:** 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2016 (36 months) **Aim:** Enhancing the quality of doctoral education in Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan in line with the principles of the European Higher Education Area; **Coordinator:** UNICA; **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



> **RUMI: Réseau des Universités Marocaines pour l'Enseignement Inclusif (Network of Moroccan Universities for Inclusive Education)** under TEMPUS IV – Structural Measures; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA-MED and Equal Opportunities; **Project period:** 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2016 (36 months); the project is a spin-off of the UMEI project (*page 5*); **Aim:** Establishing a network of Moroccan universities to promote procedures and good practices in the field of inclusive education and equal opportunities in Morocco;

Coordinator: UNICA; **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), Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development (Morocco), Observatoire National du Développement Humain – ONDH, Moroccan Association of Law Students; **Project website:** www.rumi-project.org



Ongoing EC Projects (UNICA as Partner):

> **EGRACONS – European GRAding CONVersion System – Practical Approach to Improving ECTS Implementation in Europe**, under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA International Relations Officers Group and EduLab Group; **Project period:** 1/10/2012 – 30/9/2015; **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;



Coordinator: U. Ghent; **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; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA International Relations Officers Group and UNICA PR & Communication Group; **Project period:** 01/09/2012 – 30/08/2015; 3 years); **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; **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP 2: Developing promotional material and WP4: Promotional campaign; **Coordinator:** Sapienza U. of Rome (UNICA member); **Partners:** Campus France - The Knowledge Partnership – Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association; **Project website:** www.em-ace.eu/en/



> **PRIDE: Professionals in Doctoral Education: Supporting skills development to better contribute to an European knowledge society** under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:** UNICA PhD Officers Group; **Project period:** 1/10/2013 – 30/9/2016 (3 years); **Aim:** Supporting skills development of administrative staff in doctoral education in order to provide better support to PhD supervisors, PhD candidates and external stakeholders; UNICA's role: Coordinator of Dissemination Work Package and responsible for the organisation of the training course **Coordinator:** U. of Vienna (UNICA member); **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

> **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; **Relevant UNICA**

Working Group: UNICA PhD Officers Group; **Project period:** 1/10/2013 – 30/9/2016 (3 years); **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; **UNICA's role:** Dissemination and Exploitation;

Coordinator: Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB, UNICA member), **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). **Project**

website: www.euchinadoc.com

> **PASCL: Peer Assessment of Student Centred Learning** under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects, **Relevant UNICA Working**



Group: UNICA EduLab Group; **Project period:**

01/10/2013 – 01/07/2016 (3 years); **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; **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP4: Piloting the Peer Assessment and WP7: Exploitation; **Coordinator:** European

Students' Union (ESU); **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

> **SAVES: Students Achieving Valuable Energy**

Savings under EC Intelligent Energy-Europe

Programme; **Relevant UNICA Working Group:**

UNICA Green Academic Footprint (UGAF); **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 and win prizes. The project aims not only at achieving valuable

energy savings by students during their time spent in dormitories, but also at

getting them into green energy-usage habits at the moment of a major lifestyle

change; **UNICA's role:** Task Leader in Dissemination; **Coordinator:** National

Union of Students UK; **Partners:** Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, National

and Kapodistrian University of Athens, University of Cyprus, De Montfort

Univesrity, Studentbostadsforetagen, UNICA. UNICA members University of

Cyprus and University of Athens are among the dormitory providers taking part in

the project. **Project website:** www.saves.nus.org.uk, www.saves-project.eu



> **GENOVATE: Gender Equality Action Plan** (FP7)

Relevant UNICA Working Group: Equal Opportunities

Group and EU Research Liaison Officers Group; **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; **UNICA's role:** Dissemination; Member of

International Advisory Board; **Coordinator:** U. of Bradford; **Partners:** U.

Complutense de Madrid, Ankara U. (both UNICA members), Federico II U. of

Naples, U. College Cork, Trnava U.; **Project website:** www.genovate.eu



JOINED-UP THINKING FOR JOINT SUCCESSES: UNICA MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

In the past academic year, UNICA organized a wide range of events within the UNICA clusters of activities. UNICA highly appreciates the initiatives and suggestions of the UNICA members, which helps the Network improve its added value, identify the topical issues of common importance for the members and tailor the events' programmes according to the specific interests and concerns of the university communities.

INTERNATIONALISATION & MOBILITY

UNICA CP/IRO meeting 2013 took place in the framework of the UNICA General Assembly 2013, Sapienza University of Rome, 7 November 2013.

UNICA IRO meeting 2014, Ankara University, 6-7 May 2014, brought together 36 representatives from 27 UNICA universities. It focused on updates on Erasmus+, university internationalisation strategies and innovative ways of international cooperation of UNICA universities.

3rd UNICA-MED meeting presented the outcomes of the UNICA General Assembly 2013 Seminar "UNICA & the Southern Mediterranean: Sharing, Learning, Cooperating" and discussed the Group's new initiatives, such as the involvement in the organization of the 2nd Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education and collaboration in the framework of EC-funded projects.

IMOTION Final Conference, Brussels, 9 September 2014, was attended by 90 participants, among them members of UNICA, Santander Group, Compostela Group, and EAEC networks as well as representatives of EUA, EAIE, and the European Commission. The Conference explored current challenges for organisations and employees to face the latest trends in the work environment and discuss quality assurance of staff training. The Conference also marked the official launch of the IMOTION platform www.staffmobility.eu.

UNICA at the 26th EAIE Conference: *Stepping into a new era*, Prague Congress Centre, 10-13 September 2014. More than 30 participants gathered at the informal UNICA meeting during the EAIE Conference in Prague. The **IMOTION staff mobility platform** was presented at the European Commission stand by Luciano Saso, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee (Sapienza University of Rome) and initiator of the project.

The "UNICA" session "**Unlocking the potential of summer schools for internationalisation**", featuring presentations of Summer & Winter Schools Managers Birgit Kirsimägi (Tallinn University) and Sophia Krause (FUBiS Berlin), and a presentation of UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal by Marta Brelh-Wasowska (UNICA Communication Officer), brought together more than 100 participants. Kris Dejonckheere (UNICA Secretary General) chaired the SAR session "Partnerships: incorporating transparency and reporting processes into values pledges" (*more info on page 5*).

More than 200 students from 34 UNICA member universities took part in the **UNICA STUDENT CONFERENCE 2014: *Make it Happen! Student Action Plan***, Université de Lausanne, 8-11 October 2014. The students debated in 10 forums grouped into 3 different themes: "before", "during" and "after" the University. Each forum presented its action plan at the Closing Session, where fellow students could vote on the pertinence and feasibility of each proposal. In the **Conference Movie Competition**, the Jury awarded the films of the student delegation from Université Pierre et Marie Curie (3rd place), joint delegation of Sapienza University-Tor Vergata University-Roma Tre University (2nd place) and the delegation of the University of Zagreb (1st place). Students from the Université de Lausanne received a special "Students Vote" Award.



Make it happen
Student Action Plan UNICA Student Conference 2014

The Conference programme featured something special for the **30 tutors** that accompanied the students in their preparations and the Conference itself: the **tutors programme** included keynote presentations, campus visits, UNICA tutors round table, and individual appointments at U. of Lausanne's faculties.

Pursuant to the decision of the UNICA General Assembly 2013 to provide **financial support** for UNICA members to participate in UNICA activities and following an open call for applications, all 6 UNICA member universities that applied (U. Complutense de Madrid, National and Kapodistrian U. of Athens, U. of Cyprus, U. NOVA de Lisboa, Tallinn U. of Technology, U. of Belgrade) were granted financial support for the participation of their students in the Conference (€200/participating student).

The **4th UNICA PR & Communication Workshop: *University PR & Communication tackling challenges: finding new ways to achieve your goals*** University of Vilnius, 15-16 May 2014, addressed the question of how the university PR & Communication can effectively respond to the ongoing changes and new trends in higher education. It offered the 34 participants from 14 UNICA member universities diverse forms of interaction (poster session, keynote presentations, and world café).

UNICA traineeships

Professional experience abroad for students and "internationalisation at home" for the UNICA office staff: in the academic year 2013/2014, **3 students from UNICA member universities** took up internships at the UNICA Secretariat in the framework of Erasmus Placement programme. We warmly thank Katarina Pastorkova (Comenius U. Bratislava), Nhi Cao (Humboldt U. zu Berlin) and UGAF trainee Leila Chakroun (U. de Lausanne) for their substantial support!

UNICA TRAINEESHIP IN NUMBERS

UNICA Secretariat has received

23 trainees since 2008

3 trainees - Leonardo, **20** - Erasmus Placement or other student internship schemes

The trainees represented **13 UNICA member universities**

University of Ljubljana – highest number of trainees (5)

EDUCATION

The **14th Bologna Lab Coordinators' Meeting: *Teacher Training and Research on Education***, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 5-6 December 2013, took a look beyond the Bologna Process and placed its focus on teacher training & research education. It also took a glimpse in the future looking at how to reshape the UNICA BOLOGNA LAB in the light of changing Higher Education landscape.

Take a look at the **14th Bologna Lab video** at www.unica-network.eu/event/14th-unica-bologna-lab

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

8th UNICA meeting for EU Research Liaison Officers, University of Warsaw, 17-18 October 2013, provided insights on the preparation for the new Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. The participants discussed the ERC grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and collaboration with third countries under the new Framework Programme and had a chance to get insights on the negotiations of the budget for Horizon 2020 from the Polish Member of the European Parliament Ms Sidonia Jedrzejewska.

The **5th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS: *Linking Master with PhD: success factors for effective preparation of students for PhD candidacy*** took place at the Centre for Advanced Academic Studies, University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, 31 August-3 September 2014, and focused on the question of how to best prepare a diverse population of candidates for a doctorate. The 2014 MASTER CLASS edition attracted a maximum number of **32 participants**, among them professionals in doctoral supervision from New Zealand, Australia, and Palestine. The **3 ½ day programme** featured working groups sessions, intervision session, and presentations from the **MASTER CLASS Experts**: Melita Kovačević, Chair of the EUA-CDE Steering Committee (U. of Zagreb), Member of the UNICA SC; Alexandra Bitusikova, EUA Senior Adviser on doctoral education, Andreas Frijdal, Academic Director, European University Institute (Florence), Vaughan Robinson, Director, Graduate School, King's College London, Hans Sonnefeld, Director of the Netherlands Centre for Research and Graduate Schools, and Lucas Zinner, Head of the Centre for Doctoral Studies (U. of Vienna).

"UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS has a unique combination of excellently structured activities: cases, empathic sharing of experiences in the intervision sessions, alive critical discussion, formal and informal exchanges among the participants in an always lovely and friendly social environment enlightened by the fascinating Dubrovnik atmosphere even under the storm. UNICA is "unique" in its genre of events indeed, and it is difficult to imagine that after the first experience there will not be another one even better each year." **Prof. Annamaria De Rosa, Sapienza University of Rome**

POLICY & STRATEGY

Are we not too much concentrated on Europe in the sense of EHEA? How far English should become an organic part of the courses taught to national students? Can



cooperation be more powerful than competition? Academic leaders from 19 UNICA member universities exchanged their views on universities' responsibility in research and the rationale in internationalisation at the **UNICA RECTORS SEMINAR 2014: *Strategic drivers of Reputation ad Visibility of Higher Education Institutions***, University of Luxembourg, 22-23 May 2014. Reflections on the **UNICA Mission**

Statement were also part of the Seminar's agenda.

Preparation of the 7th UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar (2014). The 7th UNICA Seminar on Scholarly Communication: *Visibility, Visibility, Visibility*, Sapienza University of Rome in cooperation with Universities "Tor Vergata" and Roma Tre, 27-28 November 2014, will address the question of how libraries can contribute to increasing visibility of and access to research results and educational resources in order to support learning, teaching and research.

This **biennial event** brings together Directors of Libraries, Information Services and of Learning Centres, Librarians, and Vice-Rectors for Research from UNICA member universities.

in cooperation with:

UNICA Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

ROMA TRE UNIVERSITÀ DEL LATINIO

7th UNICA SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION SEMINAR:
VISIBILITY, VISIBILITY, VISIBILITY

Sapienza University of Rome, Cloister Hall of the Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering,
Via Eudossiana 18, Roma
27-28 November 2014

In the digital age, visibility has become a major challenge for effective scholarly communication. How can academic libraries contribute to increase visibility of and access to research results and educational resources in order to support learning, teaching and research?

The 7th UNICA Seminar on Scholarly Communication "Visibility, Visibility, Visibility" will address this question.

It will look at the **new competencies of the academic librarian** in the digital age and in the changing landscape of research, where open access, data mining, managing information and intellectual property rights, have added urgency to the need of defining the academic library's role in scholarly communication.

The Seminar will explore ways for libraries to support **online learning**, with MOOCs for example, and **online research** with open access policies, data sharing, preservation of publications, etc. A special focus will be given to **humanities and social sciences** where scholarly communication is still very much linguistically oriented and where research assessment cannot be reduced to the impact factor. The Seminar will also address issues related to the **researcher's online presence**, social media collaboration opportunities and the place of the academic library in the digital social landscape.

The Seminar programme includes a panel session on **strategies to increase visibility**, which will present various stakeholders' points of view such as publishers, researchers, and librarians.

The Seminar will provide an excellent platform for the participants to reflect on, and share their experience with other colleagues in the broad international context of UNICA member universities. As a result, participants will gain insights into the issues at stake related to the multi-faceted concept of visibility.

Target audience: Directors of Libraries, of Information Services and of Learning Centres, Librarians, Vice-Rectors for Research from UNICA member universities.

Website: <http://www.unica-network.eu/event/7th-unica-scholarly-communication-seminar>

Online registration will open in early September 2014. For any questions, please contact Marta Bralhi-Wasowska (UNICA Secretariat): office@unica-network.eu

MISSION AND LINK WITH SOCIETY

The 4th UGAF Workshop: *From strategic tools to Environmental Management Systems : How to strengthen the sustainability policy of your University?* (Université Libre de Bruxelles, 26-28 March 2014), featuring keynote presentations by Iain Patton (CEO, Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges - EAUC) and Niko Roorda (Dutch Foundation for the Advancement of Sustainable Development in Higher Education), addressed different elements of the implementation of environmental sustainability policy at universities: strategic tools, environmental management systems, and the day-to-day work of a sustainable management office. It gathered nearly 40 participants, among them representatives of 10 UNICA member universities, peer networks, and governmental bodies.



"Sustainability is not about defining a new area at the University, it's about reinventing what we do" **Iain Patton, CEO of Environmental Association of European Universities & Colleges at the 4th UGAF Workshop**



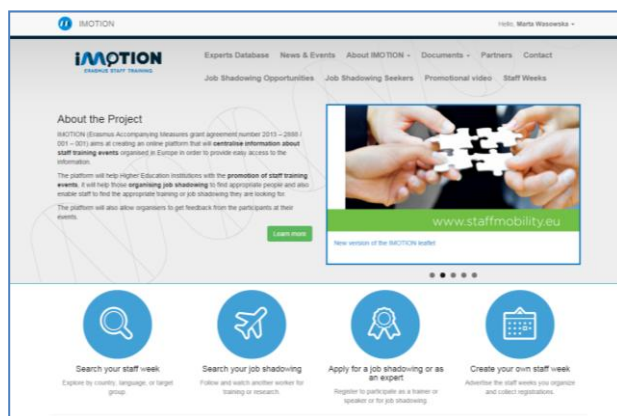
UNICA has supported the Erasmus Student network-led initiative **MapAbility: Mapping the Higher Education Institutions' accessibility for students with disabilities and special needs**, founded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The MapAbility project is a sub-project of ExchangeAbility, which was coordinated in the years 2010-2011 by UNICA. The main outcome of MapAbility is the launch of an interactive map designed to inform disabled students about the accessibility level of European

Higher Education Institutions.

GETTING THE MESSAGE THROUGH

Given the increasing diversity of events and undertaken projects, there is a growing need to strengthen the visibility of activities of the Network. One of UNICA's major attempts is to communicate the outcomes of UNICA activities via its websites, targeted mailings, social media, and a number of publications disseminated among the members of the UNICA community as well as external stakeholders: representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, Ministries of Higher Education, student associations and peer university networks. At the same time, we come up with new tools for promoting the activities of the our members

Launched in February 2014, the **UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal** (www.unicasummerschools.eu, www.unicawinterschools.eu) lists more than 180 programmes from 23 UNICA member universities and their partners. Within just 3 weeks from going online, the Portal attracted more than 2,500 individual users and continues to attract about 5,000 individual users per month, most of them from Germany, Italy, Belgium, Czech Republic, India, Brazil and the United States.



Created in the framework of the UNICA-led **IMOTION project** funded through the Lifelong Learning Programme, the **www.staffmobility.eu** platform lists more than 50 training schemes for university administrative and technical staff. The platform is linked to the official website of the European Commission.

The number of visitors/month visiting the **UNICA website** (www.unica-network.eu) grew from **6,000 visitors** in the academic year 2011/2012 to **11,000** in 2012/2013 and **15,500** in 2013/2014.



All member Universities are welcome to send us the news about the organised conferences, achievements and awards as well as project and recruitment calls; your summer/winter schools and staff mobility weeks can also be announced in special sections of the UNICA website.

UNICA Facebook page serves as an additional tool for reporting on UNICA news and activities. Created in May 2013, it now counts more than 230 "fans".

UNICA e-newsletters: UNICA e-newsletter Since 2006, UNICA sends 4 (quarterly) e-newsletters to the UNICA member Universities and partners; each newsletter represents the 3 months of UNICA activities in a nutshell.

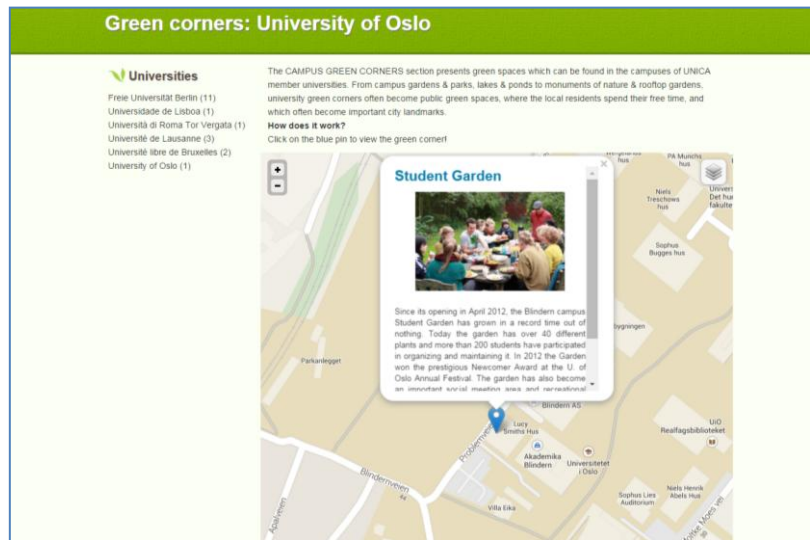


UNICA online database provides an online access to each UNICA Contact Person and allows to easily modify and add the data of university representatives involved in UNICA activities and the University itself. Both the database itself and the **online registration** component provide a quick data overview for the UNICA Secretariat.

A screenshot of the UNICA online database interface. It shows a 'People Management' section with search filters for 'First name', 'Last name', 'Role', 'Active', and 'Category'. Below the filters is a table listing contact persons.

Status	Contact	University	Category	Phone	Role	Last access
✖	Ms. Nijole BILOTAITE nijole.bilotait@vu.lt	Vilnius University	PI & Communication Officers Group	+370 5 2687001		
✖	Ms. Edita KIRLYTE edita.kirlyte@vu.lt	Vilnius University	PI & Communication Officers Group	+370 5 2687001		
✖	Ms. Ieva VITENAITIENE ieva.vitenaitiene@vu.lt	Vilnius University	PI & Communication Officers Group	+370 5 2687196		

UGAF website (www.ugaf.eu) attracts more than 2,200 different visitors per month. Apart from information about UGAF itself, the website contains news on conferences and new initiatives in environmental sustainability, a “green” media library, and a database with best green practices from UNICA member universities. In 2013, the website was enriched with a new **Campus Green Corners** section which offers a virtual tour around green spaces in the campuses of UNICA member universities.

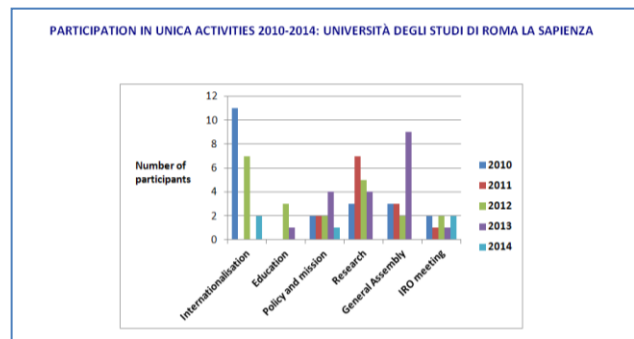


Created in February 2013, the **"You've Got UGAF Mail"** periodic bulletin presents the latest UGAF news and announces forthcoming events.

UGAF brochure introduces the aims of the UNICA Green Academic Footprint initiative and gives an overview of ongoing activities.

UNICA Participation Charts : Mapping Member Universities' Activity

Every year, each UNICA member University receives a “UNICA Participation Chart”: a comprehensive overview of its participation UNICA activities over the last 4 academic years. The Participation Charts evaluate the quality of the conducted activities, but also analyse the interests and priorities of UNICA members. It is recommended that the Contact Person and Rector/President organize a meeting at their institution with all colleagues that have participated in UNICA activities. We greatly appreciate **your feedback**: your comments and suggestions allow us better fulfil the needs of our member Universities, and improve the quality of our activities.



UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY & STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2013 & 2014

UNICA General Assembly 2013

Sapienza University of Rome in cooperation with the Universities "Tor Vergata"
and "Roma Tre", 7-9 November 2013

UNICA General Assembly 2014

Stockholm University, 23-25 October 2014

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2014

13 February 2014, Brussels (UNICA Secretariat)

22 May 2014, University of Luxembourg (in the framework of the UNICA
Rectors Seminar, U. of Luxembourg, 22-23 May 2014)

11 October 2014, Université de Lausanne (in the framework of the UNICA
Student Conference, U. of Lausanne, 8-11 October 2014)

23 & 25 October 2014, Stockholm University (in the framework of the UNICA
General Assembly, 23-25 October 2014)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All of the initiatives envisaged in the *Work Programme 2012-2013* were undertaken. Some of them are still in the process of development and will be continued in the current academic year, either through new project proposals or UNICA events.

The Network commits to pursue ambitious goals and is able to fulfil them only thanks to cooperative hard work and strong commitment of its members. The success of the UNICA activities that took place in the academic year 2013-2014 reflects greatly on the hosting Universities: we extend our sincere appreciation and thanks for their continuous engagement and efforts.

UNICA warmly thanks all the Rectors/Presidents, Vice-Rectors/Vice-Presidents, Members of the UNICA Steering Committee, International Relations Officers, UNICA Contact Persons, members of the UNICA Working Groups, Students and UNICA Trainees, and other members of the UNICA community for your ongoing active support.





Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

Tirana University • Polytechnic University of Tirana • Universität Wien • Vrije Universiteit Brussel • Université Libre de Bruxelles • Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski • Université de Zagreb • University of Cyprus • Charles University in Prague • University of Copenhagen • Tallinn University • Tallinn University of Technology • University of Helsinki • University of Paris III Sorbonne nouvelle • University of Paris VI Pierre & Marie Curie • Université Paris-Dauphine • Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje • Freie Universität Berlin • Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin • National and Kapodistrian University of Athens • Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest • University College Dublin • University of Iceland • Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza • Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata • Università degli Studi di Roma Tre • University of Latvia • University of Vilnius • University of Luxembourg • Universiteit van Amsterdam • University of Oslo • University of Warsaw • Universidade de Lisboa • Universidade Nova de Lisboa • Universitatea Bucuresti • Lomonosov Moscow State University • University of Belgrade • Comenius University in Bratislava • Univerza v Ljubljani • Universidad Autónoma de Madrid • Universidad Complutense de Madrid • Stockholm University • Université de Lausanne • Middle East Technical University • Ankara University • King's College London

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