



## President's Report

# UNICA ACTIVITY REPORT Academic Year 2007-2008

### INTERNATIONALIZATION & MOBILITY

- IRO Meeting, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, April 10-12
  - Results of "Language and Mobility" Survey
  - Coordination and organization of Tempus EC projects
- Student Conference 2008, University of Warsaw, September 24-27
- 4th UNICA Chair, Lausanne on Multilingualism (Communiqué of the President)
- Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window
  - LOT 2: the Secretary General was invited to give a presentation on the UNICA and on networking for the Consortium partners
  - Proposals in LOT 4 (Russia) and group B (Western Balkans): dissemination. Not approved
- UNICA Secretariat traineeship: 2 trainees
  - University of Warsaw: 1 student
  - University of Ljubljana: 1 student

### EDUCATION

- *7th Bologna Lab coordinators Meeting*, University of Zagreb, December 14-15
- *8th Bologna Lab coordinators Meeting*, University of Zagreb, Dubrovnik, July 3
- Submission of the Erasmus Mundus Action 4 Project "European Campus: Enhancing Overseas Student Mobility". Proposal selected.
  - Meetings for the project submission, UNICA Secretariat, March 5 and April 28
- Submission of the *Be-twin* ECTS/ECVET project, together with the Chambre de Commerce de Paris
  - Preparation meeting with Chambre de Commerce de Paris, ECTS/ECVET proposal, Paris, July 25
- See also "Running EC Projects"

### RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- Organization of the EU Research Officers Seminar, University of Cyprus, November 20-21, 2008:
  - Preparation meeting at University of Cyprus, April 21
- PhD seminar : « Enterprise-University Partnership in Doctoral Education », Université de Pierre et Marie Curie in the framework of Paris-Label Europe, June 12-13
- Meeting to prepare a workshop for Advisors and Directors of Doctoral Programmes, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, July 25
- UNICA Entrepreneurship Competition for Students and Young Researchers, 2009:
  - Setting up of the rules and the Organizing Committee

## **POLICY & STRATEGY**

- Rectors' Seminar, UNICA General Assembly 2007, Lomonosov Moscow State University, November 9
- Rectors' Seminar "Linking Universities and Enterprises: Opportunities and Threats", University of Zagreb, Dubrovnik, July 3-5
- Meeting with representatives of the European Commission on equal opportunities in HE, UNICA-European Access Network-Compostela Group Consortium, June 9
- "Minimum Standards document" elaborated in the framework of the "Education for all" conference organized by Pawel Wdowik, University of Warsaw, September 10-12, 2007
- UNICA sent a participation chart to each member university. This document will allow to assess quality, set priorities and develop suggestions for the Network
- 4th Scholarly Communication Seminar: "Partnership in Academic Excellence", Charles University Prague, May 15-16
  - Preparation and evaluation meetings with member of Scholarly Communication Core Group, Brussels, April 1 and July 29
- Visit of UNICA President and Secretary General to the Imperial College London and the University College London, April 24-25
- UNICA policy statement prepared by the Steering Committee (Brussels, February 2) and discussed by the IROs (Paris, April 10-12).
- Eotvos Lorand University Budapest, September 4: The UNICA President gave an address at the Academic Year Opening ceremony on behalf of the Network.

## **MISSION & LINK WITH SOCIETY**

- Enhancing the partnership with the UCEU Network:
  - Meeting with UCEU (Union of Capitals of the European Union) representatives in the framework of their proposal on the Future Leaders Learning Europe Programme, May 23
  - Participation of the UNICA President, in the UCEU annual GA meeting, Dublin, October 14-15
- Curriculum Development: Launching of the 4 Cities programme, Euromaster in Urban Studies (Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid and Vienna), 2008-2009
- Cognitive Sciences Master (Vienna, Ljubljana, Budapest, Bratislava)
- PhD in Multilinguism. EU Curriculum development proposal not approved.

## **RUNNING EC PROJECTS**

- **Supporting Mobility Through Information Technology** (SUMIT, SOCRATES Complementary Measures):
  - Presentation on the SUMIT project by Jolanta Urbanik (University of Warsaw), Erasmus Coordinators Conference 2008 and GO-Exchange Educational Fair, ERACON-2008 (Lisbon, May 7 – 11)

- **Information Project on Higher Education Reform II** (Lisbon Strategy and Bologna Process).  
Partners: UNICA, Brussels Education Services and ACA
  - Preparatory and feedback SC meetings with the EC: December 12, January 31, February 7 and April 13.
  - 25 Consortium meetings
  - 2 Training Seminars:
    - “Universities and Lifelong Learning: Opening Up the Knowledge Society”, University of Vienna, March 25-26
    - “European Qualifications Framework, Learning Outcomes and Labels for ECTS and Diploma Supplement”, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, June 30-July 1
  - Meeting with the EC on September 2 to discuss proposals for Bologna Papers, Virtual Community, Future Organization of Activities, Final Report.
  - Meeting with the EC on September 17 to present the potential possibilities of the Virtual Community.
  
- **TEMPUS IV: Promotion of European Higher Education Reforms in the Tempus Countries:**  
Partners: UNICA and Brussels Education Services.
  - Preparatory and feedback SC meetings with the EC: January 31, February 7 and April 13 and 23 Consortium meetings
  - 2 Training Seminars:
    - “Contribution of the Bologna Process-Principles & Instruments” Brussels, April 14-15
    - “Quality through Modernisation of Universities”, Zagreb, June 16-17
  
- **TEMPUS Joint European Project:** PRIUM project “Promoting a model of Integrated University in the FYR of Macedonia”.  
Partners: UNICA, BES, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, University of Vienna, Ss. Cyril & Methodius University of Skopje and St. Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola.
  - Preparatory meetings
    - Brussels, January 14, April 23, June 27 and July 16; University of Vienna, January 16
  - Kick-off in Skopje (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University) March 4
  - EC General Information meeting: March 10-11
  - Two sites visits: University of Vienna, May 29-30 and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, September 9-10.
  - Steering Group meeting, September 10.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- November, 8-11, General Assembly, Moscow

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

- February 2, SC meeting, UNICA Secretariat, Brussels

- April 10, SC meeting, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris
- July 5, SC meeting, University of Zagreb, Dubrovnik
- September 5, SC meeting, Eotvos Lorand University Budapest
- October 16-18, SC meeting, General Assembly, Charles University Prague

#### **PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORGANISATIONS' ACTIVITIES**

- Interview with Welsh Higher Education Brussels representatives, May 2008. Following this meeting, two speakers from Welsh Universities were invited to the PhD Seminar in Paris
- UNICA applied for a Collective Associate Membership at the EUA
- Meeting with the European Association of Conservatories (AEC) to cooperate in the Bologna Experts area, July 24
- Contribution to the Erasmus Student Network Survey 2008 (online)
- Meeting with EurActiv representatives, September 3
- Contribution of UNICA to the session 9.07 of the 20<sup>th</sup> annual EAIE Conference. Presentation: "After Mobility Keeping in Touch: Analysis from both Institutional and Student Perspectives", Antwerp, September 12, 2008
- Contribution to the newsletter to the the newsletter of the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic), Article on UNICA EC projects
- Contribution to the newsletter of ESMU/DEAN, article on the UNICA EC projects
- Article on Open Access by Françoise Vandooren, ULB, member of the Scholarly Communication Core Group

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 4 UNICA e-newsletters
- Website:
  - Update of activities
  - Creation of PRIUM, HE Reform II and Tempus IV web pages
  - Creation of the Virtual Community of Bologna Experts
- UNICA New office leaflet
- Wikipedia

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- **Internationalization & Mobility.** Most of the activities proposed in the Work Programme 2008 were achieved. In addition, new initiatives were taken: EC proposals were submitted and UNICA was granted 4 EC projects. The Network of Alumni of UNICA Student Conferences will be implemented together with the new UNICA Website and as part of the Communication strategy.
- **Education.** The proposed activities were achieved, except for the call for Joint Programmes. Following the 8<sup>th</sup> Bologna Lab Coordinators in Dubrovnik, July 3, the Bologna Lab will be reshaped in 2009 and priorities will be set.
- **Research & Development.** UNICA set up the organizing committee for the launching of the Entrepreneurship Competition for Students and Young Researchers that will take place 2009.

The PhD seminar, hosted by Université Pierre et Marie Curie was very successful. Science Park & Incubators project is in the Work Programme 2009.

- **Policy & Strategy.** The Career Center initiative is expected to be implemented in 2009. This issue was discussed at the IRO meeting (April, Paris) and will be framed in the Bologna Lab reshaping (2009). The equality and diversity initiatives have been achieved through the elaboration of the Minimum standards document and through strengthening cooperation with the EC. UNICA has highly improved the external visibility of the Network thanks to the EC projects. Next steps will be taken to improve cooperation within the Network as part of the Communication strategy.
- **Mission & Link with society.** Cooperation with UCEU (Union of Capitals of the European Union) was further explored. A seminar on the contribution of universities to capital cities will be organized in 2009.
- **Running EC Projects.** UNICA leads the three running EC projects' Consortia. The visibility and credibility of the Network in the EHEA has highly increased. Concerning the HE Reform II and the Tempus IV projects, 4 Conferences, hosting between 40 and 130 participants each has been organized in less than 5 months. Two sites visits have taken place in the framework of the PRIUM Project.
- **Participation in other organizations' activities.** UNICA has increased its participation in initiatives of other organizations. We have been asked to write articles for different publications and we are invited to work as partner for new EC projects.
- **UNICA Secretariat.** In the year 2007-2008 UNICA moved office twice. The UNICA meeting room can be booked for activities of the members (max capacity 8-10 people). Two meetings have already been held at UNICA Secretariat in 2008.
- **The UNICA Team.**
  - Secretary General: Kris Dejonckheere
  - UNICA Assistant: Sarah de Heusch was on her maternity leave from March to August. She tendered her resignation, coming into effect on September 1. Carmen Torres replaces Sarah de Heusch.
  - Project Assistant: Eva Reina
  - As approved at the IRO meeting in Paris, April 10-12, UNICA Secretariat will offer traineeship periods for students. UNICA trainees 2008:
    - Anna Laudy (University of Warsaw), from 19 August to 19 September
    - Tadej Burkelc (University of Ljubljana) from 15 September to 20 December