

UNICA **ACTIVITY REPORT** (**PAST & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**)

Prof. Luciano Saso, UNICA President

30TH UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
19 November 2020



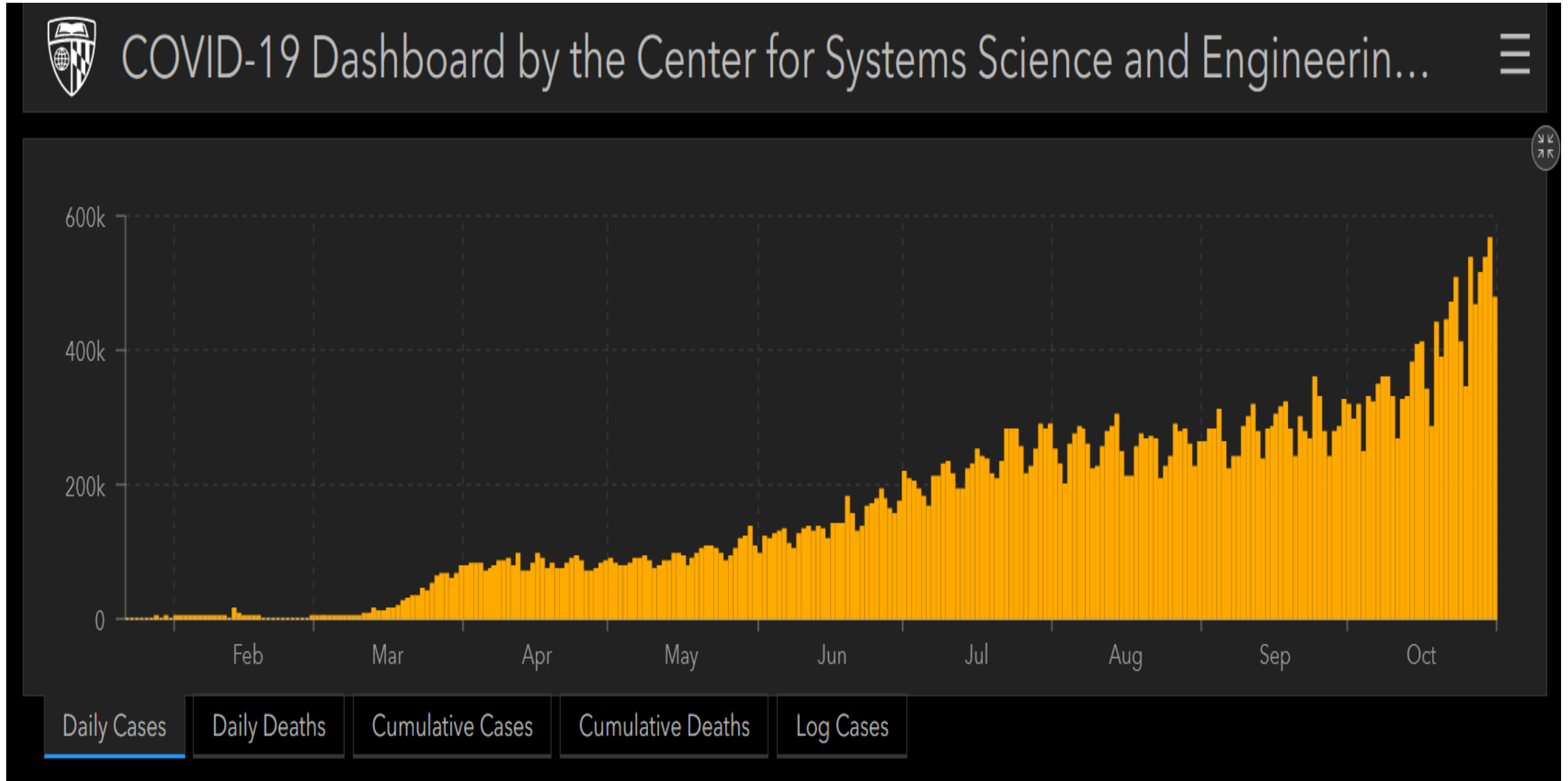
#UNICA_GA @NetworkUnica
www.unica-network.eu

30
YEARS

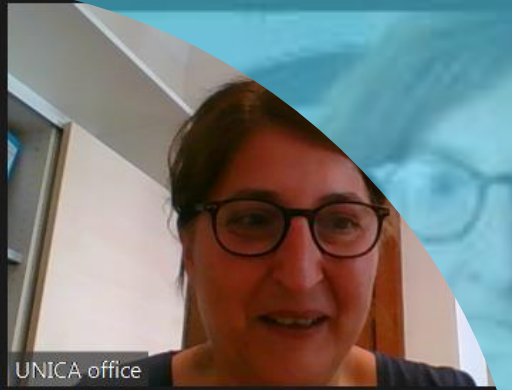


Sharing,
learning,
adding value

COVID-19



<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>



EXCELLENT REACTION OF UNICA TO THE COVID CRISIS

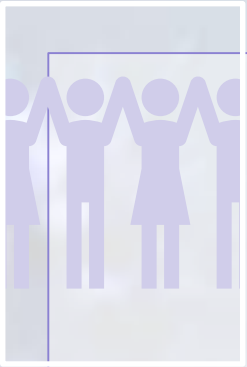
Евгений Поли...

Ravoori Priyam...

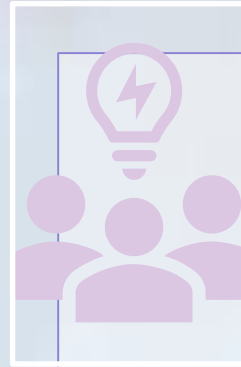
Yermak Yakym

YOLANDA XAV...

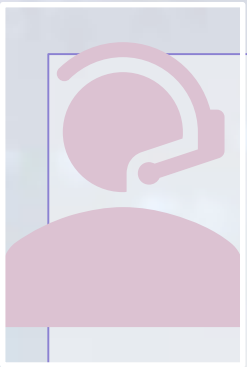
Excellent reaction of UNICA to the COVID-19 crisis



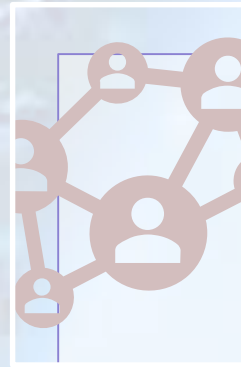
Sharing of experiences & good practices on the impact of the pandemic on HE



Intense exchanges and brainstorming meetings with all UNICA Working Groups



Organization of several webinars promoted by UNICA members and Working groups



Increased cooperation with other networks & organizations

Report on the survey "COVID-19 - Challenges and good practices at UNICA member universities"

Survey open from 2 April to 4 May 2020



36 out of 53 UNICA member universities participated in the survey

Response rate: 70%



COVID-19 - Challenges and good practices at UNICA member universities

Results of the survey
conducted in April 2020



1.1. Major challenges	0
1.2. Main measures	7
2. Handling of the Interrupted Erasmus+ mobilities	9
2.1. Major needs	10
a) Administration of mobility	10
b) Recognition	12
c) Online educational resources	12
3. Management of European-funded projects	13
3.1. Specific challenges in the management of Erasmus+ Mobility (KA103 and KA107 projects)	14
4. Virtual communication and distance learning	18
4.1. Main challenges	18
a) Lack of experience of many teachers with the online learning platforms and the need for fast upskilling and training	18
b) IT issues	18
c) Examinations & knowledge evaluation	19
d) Courses that cannot be delivered online	19
e) Digital exclusion, increased risk of students' drop-out	19
f) Other	19
4.2. Main measures taken by UNICA members	19
5. Support to students and staff isolated at home	21
a) Extra online activities, information, IT support	21
b) Wellbeing, solidarity, community engagement	22
c) Special funding, access to technology, practical support	22
6. Students' Initiatives	23
7. Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the EHEA	25
7.1. Challenges	25
7.2. Opportunities	26
Acknowledgments	29

Report on the survey "COVID-19 - Challenges and good practices at UNICA member universities"

Thank you, Laura!

<http://www.unica-network.eu/news/report-survey-covid-19-challenges-and>



Rectors Seminars



Black Sea University Network - UNICA joint webinar

“The impact of COVID-19 on universities”, 8 June

Impact, challenges and lessons learned

- Online teaching and assessment
- Providing high quality virtual and blended mobility to students and staff
- Digitalization
- Research and innovation activities
- University administration
- Digital divide
- Universities’ SDGs strategies
- Social role of universities

Speakers

- Eden Mamut, Secretary General, BSUN
- Luciano Saso, UNICA President
- Sorin Costreie, Vice-Rector, University of Bucharest
- Anastas Gerdjikov, Rector, Sofia University
- Erkan Ibiş, Rector, University of Ankara
- Gentiana Kera, Vice-Rector, University of Tirana
- Ivanka Popović, Rector, University of Belgrade
- Sergey Sidorenko, Vice-Rector, “I. Sikorsky” Kiev Polytechnic Institute

UNICA webinar “COVID-19: Biomedical, Social and Legal Aspects”, promoted by Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest and Semmelweis University,

8 October 2020

Panelists:

B. MERKELY, Rector, Semmelweis University;

V. MÜLLER, Semmelweis University;

J. B. Soriano, Director of the Department of Pulmonology, Hospital Universitario de La Princesa;

J. Ancochea, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid;

A. Street, Senior Lecturer, University of Edinburgh;

I. HOFFMAN, ELTE;

A. B. KAISER, Humboldt University;

T. GÖKSEL, Ankara University

The webinar approached different realms of handling the challenges caused by the pandemics in European countries: its clinical management, testing, its legal-administrative impact, as well its social and economic consequences

Participants

Over 300
registrations

Average evaluation

4,72/5

Rectors and Vice Rectors webinars

30th UNICA General Assembly & Rectors Seminar

THREE DECADES OF UNICA:
ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES IN THE COVID-19 ERA

19 NOV 2020 | ONLINE EVENT

30
YEARS



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe



RESEAU DES UNIVERSITES DES CAPITALES EUROPEENNES

Nous, soussignés, réunis à Bruxelles à l'initiative du Recteur de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles M. Georges Verhaegen, les 24 et 25 janvier 1990, à l'occasion de la création du Réseau des Universités des Capitales Européennes marquons notre accord de principe sur les objectifs de ce réseau tels que présentés en annexe et déclarons notre intention d'œuvrer ensemble à l'élaboration et au renforcement des coopérations interuniversitaires en matière d'enseignement, de recherche, de haute administration et de diffusion de l'information au sein de cette structure.

Dans le souci d'assurer à ce réseau à la fois une certaine cohérence et le maximum de représentativité et d'efficacité, nous approuvons le principe de l'organisation des activités du réseau en groupes opérationnels: un groupe de coordination générale et des groupes spécifiques, coordonnés, chacun, par une Université différente.

Fait à Bruxelles, le 24 janvier 1990.

The European Universities Initiative

36

out of the 53 UNICA member Universities (8 in non eligible countries) are involved in the EUI and represented in **18 Alliances**

UNICA as a **forum** for academic leadership

25 UNICA member Universities are part of 10 Alliances selected within the 1st call, 11 are part of 8 Alliances selected within the 2nd call

80%

SUCCESS RATE



Online panel "European Universities Initiative: sharing good practices, lessons learned and plans among UNICA Members" | 30 November 2020

CONFIRMED PANELISTS (+ others TBC)

ARQUS	Artūras VASILIAUSKAS	Vice-Rector	Vilnius University
Aurora Alliance	Jón Atli BENEDIKTSSON	Rector	University of Iceland
Circle U.	Svein STOLEN	Rector	University of Oslo
CIVIS -	Astrid Söderbergh WIDDING	President	Stockholm University
UNIVERSEH	Stéphane PALLAGE	President	University of Luxembourg
EUTOPIA	Igor PAPIC	Rector	University of Ljubljana
EUniWell	Béla MERKELY	Rector	Semmelweis University
EuroTeQ)	Tiit LAND	Rector	Tallinn University of Technology
4EU+	Henrik S. WEGENER	Rector	University of Copenhagen
T4E	Maria STOICHEVA	Vice-Rector	Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
UNA Europa	Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT	Vice-President	Freie Universität Berlin
UNITA	Damir BORAS	Rector	University of Zagreb

Upcoming General Assembly & Rectors Seminars

Online Rectors Seminar Interdisciplinary and intersectoral education and research in modern universities, 10 and 24 February 2021

Promoted by the University of Ljubljana

31st UNICA General Assembly & Rectors Seminar, 22 -23 June 2021

Hosted by University College Dublin

UNICA Rectors Seminar, 29 September – 1 October 2021

Hosted by Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin & Freie Universität Berlin

UNICA General Assembly & Rectors Seminar 2022 (dates TBC)

Hosted by the University of Stockholm

Viki Csonka



Over the past years she worked as an **attaché for education & culture, green affairs, and research in the Delegation of the EU to Colombia** and as a programme coordinator of Erasmus+ HE projects in the **Hungarian National Agency** as well as a freelance HE expert.

Laura Brossico



Laura started a 6-month traineeship in EU Project Management and Communication at UNICA in September. She **graduated in Political Sciences and International Relations at the Université libre de Bruxelles.**

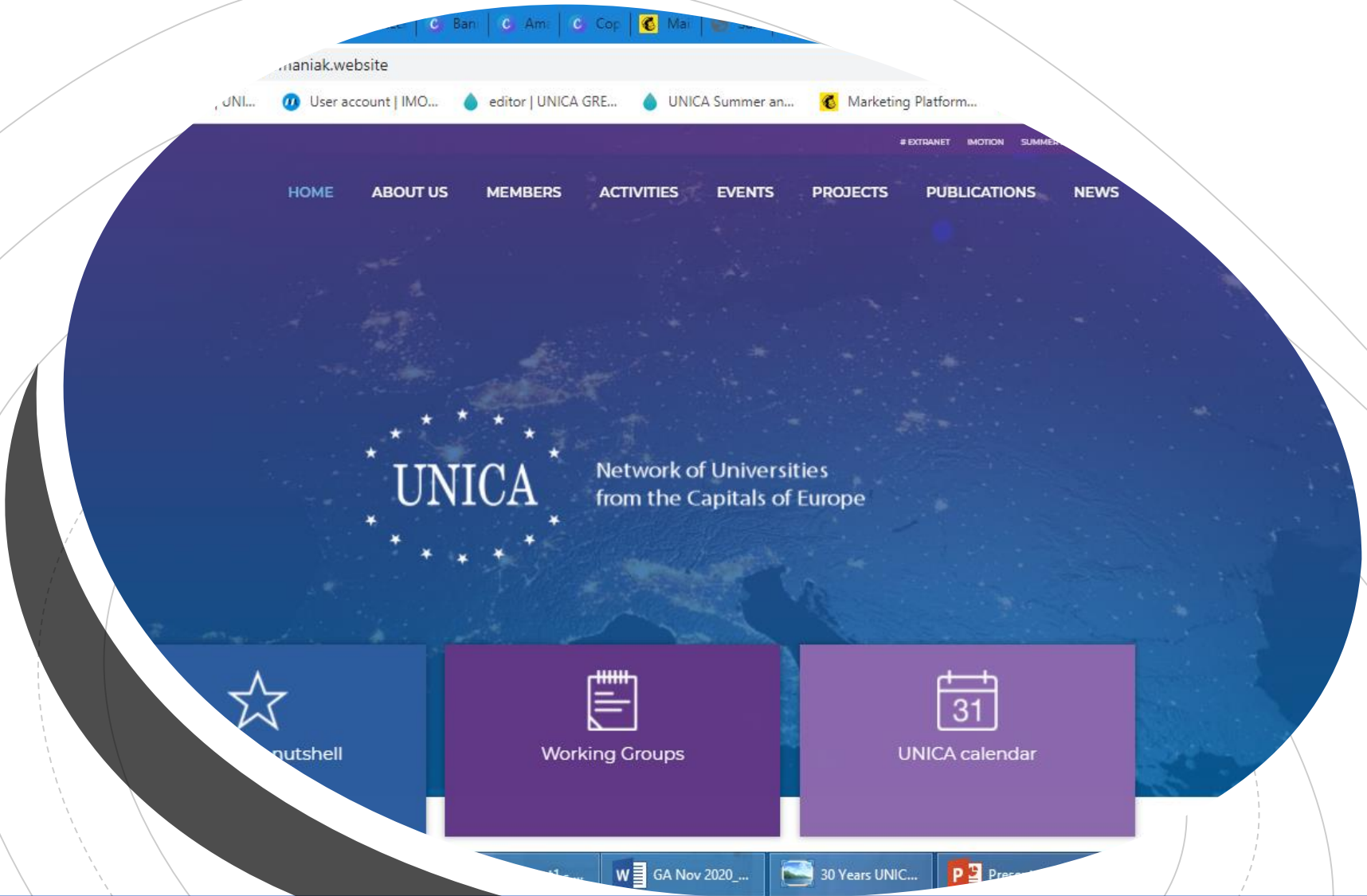
Laura Colo'



Alexandra Duarte



Alexandra returned to **UNICA** after her **traineeship of almost one year in 2019.** She has a background in Communication, to which she allies an experience in International HR after working in the area of **International Relations at NOVA University Lisbon.** In the last years she worked at the **Communications Office** of the same University.



**New UNICA
website
coming
soon!**

IRO meetings online

A screenshot of an online meeting grid showing 20 participants in a 5x4 layout. Each tile contains a video feed or a name placeholder. The participants are:

- Row 1: Dr. Pop Marcel, UNICA office, Kätlin Keinast (...), Elena Avgoustidou, Luciano Saso
- Row 2: Damiano Pinnacchio, NKUA- Fotini Fryda, Viki Csonka, Ankara Uni, Fridrika Hardardottir ...
- Row 3: dersekhe, Raimonda Markevicle..., Åsa Petri, Stockholm ..., Vratislav Kozák (Charl..., Dana Pleskotova
- Row 4: Marina Batalina, Catherine Convery, José Conchinha, adina pop r3, Denis Dafflon
- Row 5: Triin Böstrov - T..., David Glowsky (Hum..., Alina, Módos Diána, Rostyslav Rosty...

EduLab

involvement in
governance structures

innovative
teaching
methods

supportive and
inspiring learning
environment

digital
technologies

pedagogical
innovation

course content

high quality
teaching



interacti
individu

Webinar “Innovating HE Pedagogy in Turbulent Times”, organized by UNICA, University of Bucharest and CIVIS, 23 June

Panelists

- Sorin Costreie, Vice-Rector, University of Bucharest
- Luciano Saso, UNICA President
- Lucian Ciolan, Vice-Rector for Development Projects, University of Bucharest
- Lifelong Learning and Educational Infrastructure, University of Bucharest
- Clas Hätterstrand, Vice-President, Stockholm University
- Romiță Iucu, President of the Council for Orientation and Strategic Analysis, University of Bucharest
- Clara Molina, Vice-Rector for Education, Universidad Autonoma de Madrid
- Anca Nedelcu, Vice Dean, University of Bucharest
- Alice Pedregosa Professor, Aix-Marseille University

UNICA webinar “The Challenges of Modernization of Higher Education: From Comenius to the Digital Era“, 19 October

in cooperation with Charles University, Sapienza University of Rome and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Italy

Organized in celebration of the **350th anniversary of the death of Czech philosopher Jan Amos Comenius**, the webinar addressed the educational concepts and innovations Comenius introduced and their impact in modern education, with different insights on the legacy of the man that is considered the father of modern education.

Panelists: Vladimír Urbánek, Czech Academy of Sciences; Manfredi Merluzzi, Head of the Department of Humanistic Studies, Coordinator of the Didactic Committee, Roma Tre University; D. Karadimas, University of Athens; C. Delgado Kloos, Vice-Rector, University Carlos III of Madrid; Radka Wildová, Vice-Rector for Conception and Quality of Education, Charles University

Participants

50

Rectors and Vice Rectors webinars

UNICA EduLAB on “Innovative pedagogies and virtual mobility in the (post) COVID-19 era” 4 December 2020 promoted by the University of Bucharest in cooperation with CIVIS



KEYNOTE SPEECH by Adrienn Király, Head of Cabinet of the EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Speakers

Lucian Ciolan, Vice-Rector for Development Projects, Lifelong Learning and Educational Infrastructure, University of Bucharest

Clara Molina Ávila, Vice-Rector for Education, University Autonoma de Madrid

Tia Loukkola, Director of institutional development, European University Association

Anca Nedelcu, Vice Dean, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, University of Bucharest

Bjørn Stensaker, Head of LINK - Center for Learning, Innovation and Academic Development, University of Oslo



**EURLO & UNICA
RESEARCH**



UNICA Seminar on RESEARCH POLICIES & urban challenges

Organised by



stal

**BO
ZAR**



February, 2019





UNICA Shaping Research Policy

CHANGING HORIZONS: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES

7-8 November 2019

University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK



HIGH LEVEL SPEAKERS

Sessions with experts from EUA, Universities UK International, ERC grantees.



CHALLENGING TOPICS

Impact of Brexit, Humanities in Horizon Europe, Academic Libraries 4 Research



NETWORKING WITH PEERS

Connect with your peers in an international context.

In cooperation with:



Hosted by:



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



UNICA Research Policy Meeting

8 November 2019



2019
Joint statement for the best Horizon Europe
together with 13 European HE networks and associations

UNICA EU Research Policy



#EUInvestInKnowledge - A joint statement of 15 European associations of universities (17 July 2020)



Reaching an agreement on UK participation in Horizon Europe

Joint statement together with over 100 organisations and researchers from across Europe and the UK (23 July 2020)

Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific Research

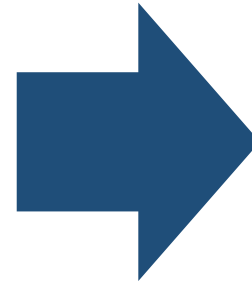
**Endorsement of the Bonn Declaration on Freedom of
Scientific Research (27 October 2020)**

UNICA EU Research Policy

UNICA – CESAER network joint workshop
“Effectively Fund inter- and Transdisciplinary Research”

14 October

Panelists: A.K. MUNK, Aalborg University; W. ONNEVELD, Ghent University; **A. MORGENSTERN, Sorbonne Nouvelle; I. OTERO, UNIL; J. SECKL, University of Edinburgh; O. KÜTTEL, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne; D. BOHMERT, CESAER; J. KREISEL, University of Luxembourg; M. HANSSON EDALAT, Stockholm University; D. BUDTZ PEDERSEN, Aalborg University**



Recommendations for funders

Participants

Over 70 registrations

Average evaluation

4,47/5

UNICA webinar “Open science in Horizon Europe: Supporting researchers”

27 November 2020

organised jointly by the EURLO & UNICA Research and the UNICA Scholarly Communication Working Groups

**Keynote talk by Jean-François Dechamp, European Commission,
DG Research & Innovation, Open Science Unit**

The webinar aims to raise awareness about the new Open Science regulations of Horizon Europe: Open Access requirements aligned on Plan S, research data, research assessment. It will also share good practices among UNICA members in supporting EU-funded researchers to comply with Open Science regulations.



UNICA Working Groups



UNICA GREEN & SDGs

UNICA Green online Round table

25 June



UNICA Green – THE Rankings joint webinar SDGs Strategies of Universities & THE Impact Rankings

9 September



Panelists: Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement, ONU; Duncan Ross, Chief Data Officer, Times Higher Education; Sebastian Berger, Vice President of the European Students' Union; **Jonathan Grant, Former Vice President & Vice Principal, King's College London;** Daniel Egret, Advisor to the President, former President of Observatoire de Paris, University Paris.

Participants

Over 100

Average evaluation

4,6/5

UNICA Green: enlarging the mission to the SDGs



Upcoming webinars 2020-2021

How to lead climate action in universities? | 16 December 2020

promoted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Université libre de Bruxelles

Climate neutrality. A theoretical approach | 22 January 2021

promoted by the University of Lausanne

Social and civic responsibility – Adopting a whole institution approach | February 2021

promoted by the University of Edinburgh

Sustainable urban mobility in the (post) COVID-19 era: challenges and opportunities | March 2021

promoted by University of Rome Tor Vergata in cooperation with Sapienza University of Rome, Roma Tre University and with the JRC City Science initiative

UNICA Scholarly Communication webinar

“Upskilling librarians to meet new library roles”, 12 November



Participants

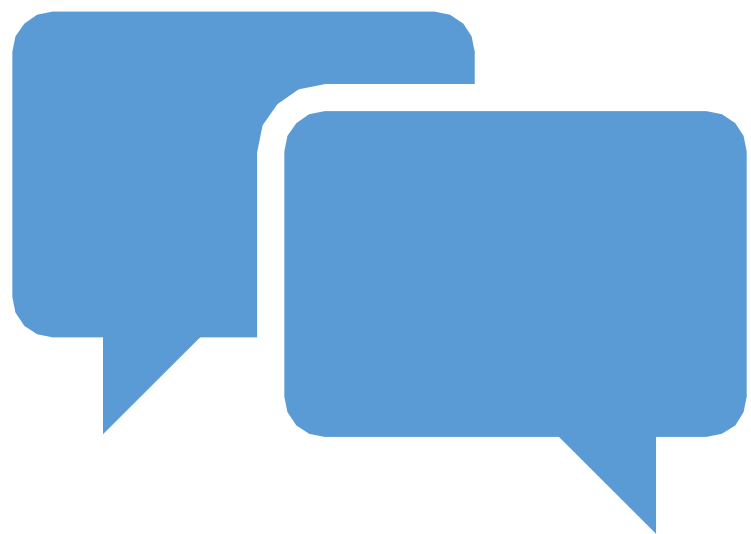
Over 90
registrations

Average evaluation

4,8/5

- José Moura, Professor and Director of the Campus Library at NOVA School of Science and Technology
- Maria Seissl, Library Director, University of Vienna
- Katrine Düring Davidsen, Project manager, Aarhus University Library
- Jeremy Upton, Director of Library and University Collections at the University of Edinburgh
- Andreas Brandtner, Director, University Library of Freie Universität Berlin

Organized by Françoise Vandooren (ULB), Coordinator of the UNICA Scholarly Communication Group



UNICA PR & COMMUNICATION

UNICA PR & Communication workshop “Communication from behind the mask“

promoted by Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest

8 October

Crisis communication - University branding & advertising to support the recruitment of international students

Panelists: Jon Örn Gudbjartsson, Head of Marketing & Communications, University of Iceland; Pall Asgeir Torfason, Head of e-learning, University of Iceland; Darja Lisjak, Head of Public Relations, University of Ljubljana; Alessandra Barberis, Head Communications Office and Daniela Vingiani, Public Relations Office, Sapienza University of Rome; Ákos Teslár, Head of Communications Department, ELTE; David Smith, Head of Marketing, University of East London; Katalin Igaz-Öhler, Internationalisation Project Leader, ELTE; Aswin Lutchanah, Social Media Specialist, University of Luxembourg; Daisy Bocchi, Project Coordinator International Marketing and Recruitment, VUB

Participants

**130
registrations**

Average evaluation

4,6/5

UNICA Working groups

UNICA webinar “Open science in Horizon Europe: Supporting researchers” | 27 November 2020

organised jointly by the EURLO & UNICA Research and the UNICA Scholarly Communication Working Groups

Keynote talk by Jean-François Dechamp, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, Open Science Unit

The webinar aims to raise awareness about the new Open Science regulations of Horizon Europe: Open Access requirements aligned on Plan S, research data, research assessment. It will also share good practices among UNICA members in supporting EU-funded researchers to comply with Open Science regulations.





UNICA & THE CITY

Increased focus on the SDGs strategies and the social role of universities



**UNICA is one of the stakeholders networks of
the JRC City Science Initiative**



**Cooperation and joint initiatives with
UNICA & the City and UNICA Green**

Increased focus on the SDGs strategies and the social role of universities

UNICA & the City webinar
**The Role of Universities in Fostering
High Quality Citizen Science**

promoted by NOVA University Lisbon

24 September

Panelists: Caroline Nevejan, Professor, University of Amsterdam; Katarzyna Wojnar, Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw; Lia Vasconcelos, Professor, NOVA University of Lisbon; Maria Fernanda Rollo, Professor, NOVA University of Lisbon; Veronika Wöhrer, Professor, University of Vienna; Francisco Ferreira, Associate Professor, NOVA University Lisbon; Shane Bergin, Physicist, University College Dublin

Participants

Over 100

Average evaluation

4,6/5

UNICA & the City webinar
Universities responding
to forced displacement.
Challenges and opportunities

promoted by
University College Dublin

25 November 2020 |
10:00 - 12:00 (CET)





Student Conferences



The banner is divided into two main color sections: a yellow top section and a green bottom section. The top section features the UNICA logo (Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe) on the left and the NOVA University of Lisbon logo on the right. Below the NOVA logo, it says 'in cooperation with' followed by the ESU and ESN logos. The main text in the top section reads 'THE UNICA STUDENT CONFERENCE 2020 GOES VIRTUAL!' in large, bold, blue and green letters. The bottom section has a light blue circular graphic on the left containing the text: 'We were hoping to welcome you in Lisbon and we are looking forward to the Student Conference 2021. In the meantime, JOIN YOUR PEERS ONLINE!'. To the right of this graphic are four colorful human icons (yellow, blue, green, orange) holding hands. Below the icons, the text reads 'UNICA STUDENT WEBINAR' in large yellow letters, followed by 'Monday, 29 June 2020 15:00 - 18:00 CEST' in white text.

UNICA STUDENT WEBINAR, 29 June

Promoted by Nova University Lisbon,
in cooperation with ESU & ESN

- The future of the academic job market for university graduates and European mobility in the post COVID-19 era
- Distance learning - Lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis and what will the future bring
- The future of the social impact of universities (and how the crisis has affected its perception)

Participants

Over 400
(in & off)

Evaluation

4,7/5

UNICA Student activities



Student webinars

10th UNICA STUDENT CONFERENCE



The poster features a yellow top section with logos for UNICA (Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe) and Universidade Nova de Lisboa. The main title 'UNICA STUDENT CONFERENCE 2021' is centered in blue and purple. Below this, a dark blue section contains the dates 'Lisbon, 18 - 21 July 2021' and the theme 'TRANSFORMING YOUR UNIVERSITY IN THE (POST) COVID-19 AGE' in yellow. At the bottom of this section is a row of eight colorful human icons. The footer of the poster states 'Hosted by NOVA University Lisbon'.

UNICA Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA

UNICA STUDENT CONFERENCE 2021

Lisbon, 18 - 21 July 2021

TRANSFORMING YOUR UNIVERSITY IN THE (POST) COVID-19 AGE

Hosted by NOVA University Lisbon

UNICA Student activities

REGULARLY UPDATED UNICA CALENDAR

<http://www.unica-network.eu/page/unica-glance>

Ongoing projects (UNICA as partner)

The logo for SAVES 2, featuring the text "SAVES 2" in white on a teal background with a white outline.

**SAVES 2: Students
Achieving Valuable
Energy Savings 2
(Horizon 2020)**

**4 UNICA members as
partners**



**TWE+
Teach with Erasmus+
(Erasmus+ Strategic
Partnerships)**

Coordinated by ELTE



**Teaching in HE
effectively via Eye-
tracking
(Erasmus+ Strategic
Partnerships)**

Coordinated by METU

Online conference "Quality Teaching Mobility: challenges and opportunities"

in the framework of the Erasmus+ KA2

"Teach with Erasmus+" project

More than 100 active participants



SAVES²

H2020 project SAVES 2 -
Students achieving valuable energy savings
Final dissemination webinar

How much we SAVED.
Impact, findings & lessons learned.

Friday, 15 January 2021

Keynote speech by Nina Klemola, Project Advisor, Intelligent Energy Europe and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency Programmes

EU-funded projects' events



53

Universities in 37 capital cities



2 **new** Members

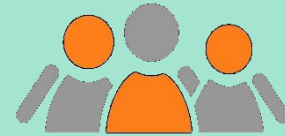
- Semmelweis University
- Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3 (re-admission)



7 Working Groups



21 Webinars



> **990** Participants



4,64/5 Average evaluation

