



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

30th UNICA General Assembly & Rectors Seminar

19
November
2020

Three Decades of UNICA: achievements, challenges and opportunities for European universities in the COVID-19 era

The event will take place online

Regular updates and registration form will be available at:

<http://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-general-assembly-rectors-seminar>

While celebrating the **30th anniversary of UNICA** and looking back on the **achievements of the network and of European universities over the past 3 decades**, the Seminar will also reflect on the **impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on our societies, and on Higher Education in particular**: How universities have responded to this crisis? What are the opportunities and threats that the pandemic has posed to HEIs? Which role can universities play in addressing its long-term social and economic impact?

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PROGRAMME (as of 16 November 2020)

9:30 – 12:15	UNICA ADMINISTRATIVE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 17:10	UNICA RECTORS SEMINAR Overall Chair: Luciano Saso , UNICA President
13:00 - 13:10	Welcome address by Luciano Saso , UNICA President
13:10 – 13:15	Audio message by Mariya Gabriel , EU Commissioner Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
Session 1	1990-2020: UNICA & Europe, two success stories Chair: Tanja Börzel , Jean Monnet Chair, Director of the Center for European Integration and the Center of Excellence "The EU and its Citizens", Freie Universität Berlin
13:15 - 13:35	Sabine Kunst , President, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Günter M. Ziegler , President, Freie Universität Berlin
13:35 – 13:50	Luciano Saso , UNICA President
13:50 – 14:20	Discussion
14:20 – 14:30	Comfort break

Session 2	<p>Challenges & opportunities for universities in the COVID-19 era</p> <p>Chair: Sorin Costreie, Vice Rector, University of Bucharest and Member of the UNICA Steering Committee</p>
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Promoting international cooperation and mobility under / after the pandemic</i> , by Ulrich Grothus , President ACA – Academic Cooperation Association
14:45 – 15:00	<i>Challenges and opportunities for universities in the (post) COVID-19 era. A perspective from the University of Helsinki, Finland</i> , by Sari Lindblom , Rector, University of Helsinki
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Challenges and opportunities in the COVID-19 era – A perspective from the University of Iceland</i> , by Jón Atli Benediktsson , Rector, University of Iceland
15:15 – 15:40	Discussion
15:40 – 15:50	Comfort break
Session 3	<p>The future relevance of Higher Education for society</p> <p>Chair: Carmela Calès Bourdet, Vice Rector, Universidad Autónoma of Madrid and Member of the UNICA Steering Committee</p>
15:50 – 16:05	<i>The role of universities in moderating populism and tribalism</i> , by Andrew Deeks , President, University College Dublin
16:05 – 16:20	<i>Universities and Society 5.0</i> , by Igor Papič , Rector, University of Ljubljana
16:20 – 16:35	<i>Looking for silver-linings</i> , by Peter Mathieson , Principal, University of Edinburgh
16:35 – 17:00	Discussion
17:00 – 17:10	Closing