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learning,
adding value

UNICA ACTIVITY REPORT 2016-2017

UNICA

Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

UNICA Activity Report 2016-2017

Editor in chief: Professor Luciano Saso, UNICA President
Editor: Kris Dejonckheere, UNICA Secretary General
Content: Marta Brelih-Wasowska / Marta Rachlewicz (UNICA)
Design: Audrė Chudinskaitė

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UNICA a.i.s.b.l.
c/o University Foundation | Rue d'Egmont 11 | 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM
office@unica-network.eu | Tel: +32(0) 2 514 79 00 | www.unica-network.eu

Dear Colleagues,

The academic year 2016/2017 was certainly marked by events that will have a strong influence on European Higher Education in the forthcoming years. Brexit and the hurdles that the European integration face at the moment highlighted social and democratic challenges that universities in Europe have to confront not only by integrating these issues into curricula and academic research, but also by building stronger links with their cities, regions, and other stakeholders in society.

At the same time, the previous academic year also saw events that reminded us of the enormous journey that we completed from countries (and universities) in isolation to a European community of knowledge. We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome with a **UNICA Rectors Seminar: *The Treaty of Rome after 60 years: Achievements and challenges of European Higher Education***, hosted by Sapienza University of Rome in cooperation with the Universities of Rome "Tor Vergata", "Roma Tre" and "Foro Italico", 23-25 March 2017. The values and principles that underpinned the signing of the Treaty 60 years ago will certainly guide us in the years to come.

The following report covers our activities and achieved outcomes of the past academic year, including the creation of new opportunities for UNICA university leaders to meet and pivoting our communication strategy to better serve our Members' needs. It could certainly not be complete without acknowledging the involvement and invaluable contributions from our Member Universities. In this context, I would like to extend my grateful appreciation to all Rectors, Presidents, and each and every member of the UNICA commmunity for their continued support.

The new academic year will be a year of transition for UNICA, as the new Steering Committee will take over in January 2018. I sincerely appreciate the honour and the opportunity to have worked with the outgoing SC members and I look forward to continue the work with their successors.

I wish you a good read and I very much hope you will find it both interesting and rewarding, as it is only thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of numerous individuals in our Network that we can accomplish all we set out to do.

Prof. Luciano Saso
UNICA President

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017 IN NUMBERS

46 Member Universities
from **35 European capital cities**
27 years **together**

UNICA ACTIVITIES

9 WORKING GROUPS

15 UNICA seminars, meetings & workshops

600+ participants

Average evaluation of UNICA meetings

4,3/5

Highest meeting evaluation:
UNICA IRO meeting 2017,
University of Copenhagen **(4,87/5)**

11 UNICA HOST UNIVERSITIES

10 EUROPEAN PROJECTS
including 3 projects coordinated by UNICA

COMMUNICATION

13 newsletter issues

600+ newsletter subscribers

UNICA WEBSITE: unique visitors

2015-2016	2016-2017	Increase
↓	↓	↓
16,500	**22,705**	**38%**

IMOTION Staff Mobility platform Staffmobility.eu

200+ training opportunities for university administrative and technical staff. **85,871 unique visitors** in 2016-2017, increase of **37%.**

1,000 FOLLOWERS

UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal

140 programmes from 30 UNICA Member Universities & their partners. **27,494 unique visitors** in 2016-2017, increase of **18%.**

UNICA MEETINGS 2016-2017 ON A MAP*

*The list does not contain meetings organised in the framework of other, non-UNICA international or European events

UNICA
Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe
UNICA GREEN Workshop 2017, Tallinn University
IRO Meeting 2017, University of Copenhagen
UNICA General Assembly 2016, University of Warsaw
PR & Communication Workshop 2017 and Scholarly Communication 2016, University of Lausanne
EU Research Liaison Officers Meeting 2016, University of Vienna
PhD MASTER CLASS 2017, CAAS University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik
"University, Culture and the City" Conference 2017, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
EduLAB Meeting 2016 and Rectors Seminar 2017, Sapienza University of Rome in cooperation with Universities "Tor Vergata", Roma Tre, and "Foro Italico"

UNICA ACTIVITIES IN REVIEW

In the past academic year, UNICA organised a range of events within the UNICA clusters of activities. We are most grateful for the initiatives and suggestions of the Members, which help us identify the most topical issues and tailor the programmes of our activities in line to the specific interests of university professionals and the challenges they face in their day-to-day work.

INTERNATIONALISATION & MOBILITY

UNICA CP/IRO meeting was held during the General Assembly 2016, University of Warsaw, 17 November 2016.

UNICA IRO meeting 2017 was hosted by the University of Copenhagen, 24-26 April 2017. Through interactive sessions, the meeting tackled the topics of crisis management, supporting refugee students and academics and the quality of international cooperation. It brought together 54 participants representing 32 UNICA Member Universities. In the evaluation survey, the meeting was rated at 4,87, which is the highest satisfaction score among all meetings evaluated in the academic year 2016/2017.

On 14 September 2017, more than 40 participants gathered at the **informal UNICA meeting & reception** organised on the occasion of the **29th EAIE Conference** in Seville. UNICA member universities contributed actively to the EAIE Conference programme by sharing their experiences in numerous workshops and sessions.

The 7th UNICA PR & Communication Workshop: ***Delivering the right content to the right people: the importance of content strategy*** was hosted by the University of Lausanne, 18-19 May 2017. 37 participants gathered to explore the key components of content strategy, the changing role (and changing target groups) of university communication channels and to look at how the decisions about content are made at different institutions.

ERASMUS+ TRAINEESHIP AT UNICA

Between 2008 and 2017, 25 students from 11 Member Universities completed traineeships at the UNICA Secretariat in Brussels.

"Thanks to UNICA traineeship I was able to gain valuable hands-on experience working in an international environment which, I believe, will help me in my future career endeavours."

Eva Malovrh, University of Ljubljana, Communications Trainee, May-September 2017

EDUCATION

The **EduLAB meeting 2016** was hosted by Roma Tre University in cooperation with Sapienza University of Rome and the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", 15-16 December 2016. 78 participants from 16 Member Universities met in Rome to discuss the latest developments in the EHEA and burning questions that must be answered by the European higher education, such as the recognition of qualifications of refugee students.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The 11th UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers meeting was hosted by the University of Vienna in cooperation with IST Austria, 28-29 November 2016. The meeting attracted 58 participants from 18 Member Universities and focused on financial issues in Horizon 2020, ethics support, and the future of the EU Framework Programmes.

The 8th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS: *Going beyond knowledge & skills in doctoral education: How to integrate values and professional attitudes in PhD training?* was organised in conjunction with the PRIDE Network: Association for Professionals in Doctoral Education and hosted by the Centre for Advanced Academic Studies University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, 27-30 August 2017. 21 participants from Europe and Japan discussed different ways of addressing ethical issues and instilling values and professional attitudes in doctoral candidates.

POLICY & STRATEGY

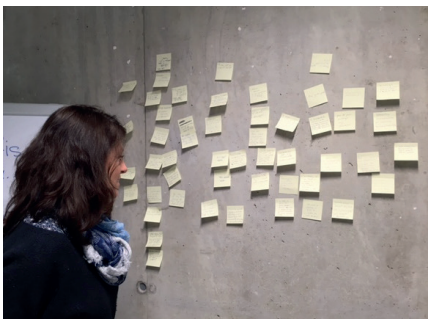
The **UNICA Rectors Seminar: *The Treaty of Rome after 60 years: Achievements and challenges of European Higher Education*** was hosted by Sapienza University of Rome in cooperation with the Universities of Rome "Tor Vergata", "Roma Tre" and "Foro Italico", 23-25 March 2017. The meeting gathered 55 distinguished participants, among them senior officials of European institutions and Rectors and Vice-Rectors from 27 UNICA Member Universities.

The **Europe-China Rectors Seminar** was hosted by Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, 4-5 May 2017. This high-level Seminar, bringing together more than 130 academic leaders from both UNICA Member Universities and top Chinese HEIs, was organised with the support of the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union and in the framework of the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue (HPPD). The Seminar was part of the EU co-financed Erasmus+ Capacity Building L**EAD project: Governance and Academic Leadership of Chinese and European Universities in the Context of Innovation and Internationalisation.** Read more about the project on page 34.

The **8th UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar** ***The transition to Open Access: strategies and impacts*** discussed issues related to the implementation of Open Access at Universities. The Seminar, addressed to Directors of Libraries, of Information Services and of Learning Centres, Librarians, and Vice-Rectors for Research from UNICA Member Universities, was kindly hosted by the University of Lausanne, 1-2 December 2016, and brought together 51 participants from 12 UNICA Member Universities to discuss strategic Open Access business models.

MISSION & LINK WITH SOCIETY

The **7th UNICA GREEN Workshop:** ***Learning Interfaces for Sustainable Development of Higher Education***,Tallinn University, 26-28 April 2017 gathered 27 participants from 9 UNICA Member Universities and focused on different aspects of digital learning for sustainable development.



The **2nd UNICA 'University, Culture and the City' Conference:** ***University as an Urban Cultural Institute*** was hosted by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski on 29-31 May 2017. 32 participants discussed the role of cultural research at the university, the interaction between cultural and academic policies and the core values lying at the heart of University-City cooperation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016 & 2017

UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016

ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW'S 200th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

University of Warsaw
17-18 November 2016

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW UW Two centuries Good beginning

UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

Eötvös Loránd University Budapest,
16-17 November 2017

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017

- **23 March 2017**, Sapienza University of Rome, in the framework of the **UNICA Rectors Seminar:** ***The Treaty of Rome after 60 years: Achievements and challenges of European Higher Education***, 23-25 March 2017
- **4 May 2017**, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, in the framework of the Europe-China Rectors Seminar, 4-5 May 2017
- **6 October 2017**, Roma Tre University, in the framework of the **UNICA Student Conference**, 4-7 October 2017
- **15 & 17 November 2017**, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, in the framework of the UNICA General Assembly 2017

UNICA WORKING GROUPS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICERS

Established in 1995, the International Relations Officers (IRO) Group is the oldest working group of the UNICA Network, bringing together meetings Heads and Senior Officers of International Relations Offices from UNICA Member Universities to share information and innovative approaches to internationalisation at universities: implementation of internationalisation strategies, quality assurance of international partnerships, management of international projects and mobility schemes, and development of internationalisation support mechanisms.

CONTACT THE CHAIRS

IRO OBSERVER, CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Ms Hedvig Gyde THOMSEN
University of Copenhagen
hgt@adm.ku.dk

DEPUTY IRO OBSERVER, VICE-CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Ms Alina GRZIBOVSKA
University of Latvia
alina.grzibovska@lu.lv

UNIVERSITY PR & COMMUNICATION

University communication has changed tremendously over the last years with the advent of digital technologies, growing need for interaction in social media, and the increasing competition among Higher Education Institutions. Established in 2011, the UNICA PR & Communication Group brings together university professionals working in the field of PR, Communication and Marketing. It offers a platform to exchange practices and get insights into the latest trends and developments in university PR & communication. The Group meets every year during UNICA PR & Communication Workshops.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Ms Katerina NIKOLAIDOU
University of Cyprus
katerina@ucy.ac.cy

UNICA EduLAB

From 2002 to 2013, UNICA organised Bologna Labs - annual meetings for Bologna Coordinators that addressed the challenges and best practices related to the implementation of the Bologna Process. Ten years after the founding of the UNICA Bologna Lab Coordinators Group, the Group took a look beyond the Bologna Process in order to reshape its activities in the light of the changing European Higher Education landscape. The redesigned UNICA EduLAB now steers its discussions towards the implications of the Bologna Process for European HEIs and places its focus on the latest developments in university teaching and learning.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

UNICA President Prof. Luciano SASO
Sapienza University of Rome
luciano.saso@uniroma1.it

DOCTORAL EDUCATION

Since 2009, Doctoral Education Group brings together Vice-Rectors Research, Heads and Deans of Doctoral Schools/Programmes, doctoral supervisors, academics and senior managers working in the area of doctoral education to discuss highly relevant issues for the development of the third cycle, ranging from doctoral supervision, personal development and career development of doctoral candidates, internationalisation of doctoral education and professionalisation of doctoral education staff. The Group meets every year during the annual UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Prof. Jacques LANARÈS
University of Lausanne
jacques.lanares@unil.ch

EU RESEARCH LIAISON OFFICERS

Every year since 2006, the annual UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers' meetings gather experienced officers from UNICA member universities dealing with administrative, legal, and financial aspects of the European research projects. The first meetings resulted in the setting up of a Working Group, offering a platform for the exchange of information and best practice and for voicing joint recommendations on improving the European research policies and programmes.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Ms Diana PUSTULA
University of Warsaw
diana.pustula@adm.uw.edu.pl

SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

Established in 2001, the UNICA Scholarly Communication Group gathers Heads of Libraries and Senior Librarians from UNICA member universities. The Group aims to serve as a think tank on the evolution of the role of university libraries in educational processes and academic research and in the changing technological environment. Biennial Scholarly Communication Seminars are organised to share our members' experiences and to acknowledge the impact that the new scholarly communication management models have on our institutions.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Ms Françoise VANDOOREN
Université libre de Bruxelles
francoise.vandooren@ulb.ac.be

UNICA-MED

The aftermath of the Arab Spring and the ongoing migration crisis brought the attention of European universities to the Southern Mediterranean. Founded in 2012, the UNICA-MED Group aims to serve as a platform for constructive dialogue between European and Southern Mediterranean Universities, to strengthen academic partnerships in the region, and to develop new policies and strategies for internationalisation and modernisation of university research, education and administration in the Southern Mediterranean area.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

UNICA President Prof. Luciano SASO
Sapienza University of Rome
luciano.saso@uniroma1.it

UNICA GREEN

Established in 2011 on the initiative of the participants of the UNICA Student Conference 2010 in Rome, the UNICA GREEN (formerly UNICA Green Academic Footprint, UGAF) is a platform for Sustainability/Environmental Coordinators to exchange experience and practices in different elements of the implementation of environmental sustainability strategies at universities: strategic tools, environmental management systems, and best practices related to the day-to-day work of a sustainable management office, student involvement, and outreach. The annual UNICA GREEN Workshops gather Sustainaibility/Environmental coordinators, Vice-Rectors responsible for the implementation of institutional sustainability strategy from UNICA member universities, as well as representatives of UNICA GREEN Partners, peer networks, governmental bodies, and city authorities.

CONTACT THE CHAIRS

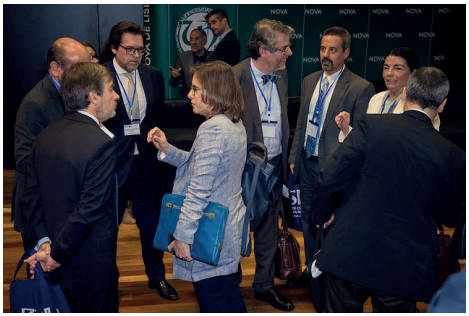
CO-CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Ms Delphine DOUÇOT
University of Lausanne
delfine.doucot@unil.ch

CO-CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Ms Rebecca LEFEVERE
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
rebecca.lefevere@vub.ac.be

UNIVERSITY, CULTURE AND THE CITY



Beyond their traditional activities of research and teaching, higher education institutions reflect regularly on the place of culture on university campus, the role of universities as cultural actors in their cities or regions and their relations with the city's major cultural organisations.

Established in 2016, the Working Group gathers representatives of UNICA member universities, representatives of municipalities and the cities' cultural actors to develop interaction with the authorities of European capitals, promote a joint reflection on cultural policies and strengthening the role of academic leadership in promoting, creating and disseminating culture. Apart from their annual conference, the Group plans to pursue other activities, such as the sharing of facilities among universities and municipalities, joint projects in the framework of EU programmes (such as Creative Europe), joint cultural activities by universities and municipalities.

CONTACT THE CHAIR

CHAIR OF THE GROUP

Prof. Francisco Caramelo
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
francisco.caramel@fcsh.unl.pt

UNICA ON THE EUROPEAN & GLOBAL SCALE

Making sure that the views and recommendations voiced by our Member Universities are given due attention in the process of developing European higher education and research policies is the core task of our Network. To this end, UNICA participates actively in the stakeholders' forum of the European Commission and maintains regular dialogue with the European Commissioner for Education and Culture as well as with the Directorates General for Education and Culture and for Research and Innovation.

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, International Association of Universities (IAU), Erasmus Student Network, European University Foundation, SGroup European Universities' Network, Coimbra Group of Universities and Compostela Group of Universities.

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORGANISATIONS' ACTIVITIES

UNICA, member of the AECHE Conference Steering Committee, contributed to the **Fourth Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 4): *Research for sustainable societies – the role of universities***, University Mohammad V, Rabat, Morocco, 24-26 April 2017. Four UNICA Experts: Melita Kovacevic (University of Zagreb), Patricia Rosado Pinto (Universidade NOVA de Lisboa), Lucas Zinner (University of Vienna) and Jacques Lanarès (University of Lausanne) shared their experience during the Workshop "Lessons learned from collaborative doctoral education".

Together with Scholars At Risk (SAR Network), the University of Oslo and the University of Ljubljana, UNICA co-organised the **staff training week** devoted to welcoming refugees on campus, which took place 19-23 June 2017 in Oslo. The training consisted of two modules: Understanding Academic Freedom and related Higher Education Values; and Welcoming Refugees and Threatened Academics to Campus.

UNICA Steering Committee member Prof. Jacques Lanarès (University of Lausanne) participated as panel speaker in the **5th EWORA Women Rectors Association Conference: *Pivoting On Gender Equality Through the Lens of Leadership: Policies, Strategies and Actions,*** Brussels, 29-30 May 2017.

In 2015, UNICA joined the Diplomatic, Economic and Academic (DEA) Missions organised by CIDIC - International Diplomatic and Consular Circle. The initiative aims to stimulate and promote European economy by offering a platform for the representatives of the political, diplomatic, academic and business worlds. So far, UNICA representatives took part in the **DEA Missions to Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Estonia**, which were supported by the UNICA Member Universities from these countries: University of Luxembourg, University of Amsterdam, Comenius University in Bratislava, Tallinn University and Tallinn University of Technology.

During the Diplomatic, Academic, Economic (DEA) Mission to Malta, 19-21 April 2017, UNICA President Prof. Luciano Saso gave a presentation "Academic cooperation in the Mediterranean: the role of the UNICA Network".

For the 7th time, three university networks - UNICA, SGroup European Universities' Network and Compostela Group of Universities are joining forces in preparation of a joint annual conference. The **Conference "Shaping the social impact of European research"** will take place in Brussels on 6 November 2017.

UNICA will continue its cooperation with the Coimbra Group of Universities for the **2nd Coimbra Group-UNICA workshop for doctoral candidates: *Navigate your career!***, which will take place at the Centre for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, 15-18 October 2017.

UNICA President Prof. Luciano Saso participated as panelist in the debate "How can universities harness the potential for cultural diplomacy to transform societies?" held during the **2017 Transatlantic Dialogue (TAD) Conference: *Creating Human Bonds through Cultural Diplomacy*** at the University of Luxembourg, 25-26 May 2017.

The **Europe-China Rectors Seminar** which took place on 4-5 May 2017 at Universidade NOVA de Lisboa was organised with the support of the **Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union** and in the framework of the **EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue (HPPD)**. It was also a follow-up event of the **China-EU Education Ministers Conference**, Beijing, 11 October 2016. The Seminar was held in the framework of the EU co-financed Erasmus+ Capacity Building **LEAD project**.

PARTICIPATION IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Between 2007 and 2017, UNICA was part of **29 EU projects**, including **10 projects** as Project Coordinator and **1 project** as Co-Coordinator. **35 out of 46** UNICA member universities participated in EU projects with the involvement of UNICA.

UNICA AS COORDINATOR

UZDOC 2.0. - Furthering the quality of doctoral education at Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan

Erasmus+ Programme (KA2: Capacity Building in Higher Education)

Relevant UNICA working group: Doctoral Education
Project Period: 15/10/2016- 14/10/2019

Aim: Although significant steps have been made toward the **modernization and alignment of Uzbek doctoral education with the European system**, there are still many challenges to be tackled. Building on the outcomes of the former UZDOC project, UZDOC 2.0. will aim at **furthering the quality of doctoral education** at Uzbek partner HE institutions and **strenghening the implementation of doctoral education reforms** in Uzbekistan.

Coordinator: UNICA

Partners: Université libre de Bruxelles, Eötvös Loránd University (both UNICA members), Polytechnic University of Turin, University of Granada, Tashkent Financial Institute, Namangan State University, Tashkent Chemical-Technological institute, Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture, Karakalpak State University, Karshi State University, Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service

Specific project objectives:

- To improve the capacity of Uzbekistan HEIs for supporting doctoral education, in line with the state-of-the-art EHEA developments in the area of doctoral education
- To raise the capacity of Uzbekistan HEIs in implementing national standards for quality assurance in doctoral education
- To increase the capacity of academic and non-academic human resources in Uzbekistan HEIs to contribute toward the implementation of the reforms of doctoral education
- To improve the collaboration between the academic and business sector and industry in Uzbekistan, reducing the skills gap between doctorate holders and the business sector.

Website: ***www.uzdoc.eu***

UNICA AS PARTNER

ACADEMIC REFUGE (Strategic Partnership to Promote Core Academic Values and Welcome Refugees and Threatened Academics to European Campuses)

Under Erasmus+ (KA+ Strategic partnerships)

Project Period: 01/09/2016 – 31/08/2019

Relevant UNICA working group: International Relations Officers, EduLAB
Coordinator: University of Oslo (UNICA member)

Partners: UNICA, University of Ljubljana (UNICA member), Scholars At Risk Network

UNICA's role: Active contribution to all deliverables of the project, including organisation of the staff training week, design of the staff week curriculum and the handbook on values in HE.

Aim: This project **aims to improve the capacity** of European universities to **assist refugees and threatened academics on campus.** The project also **strives to promote and raise greater awareness** of the **importance of academic freedom and other academic values** in the Higher Education sector, the consequences for society at large when such freedom is repressed, and the steps to be made to protect higher education values.

Website: ***http://www.uio.no/english/about/global/globally-engaged/academic-refuge/***

SAVES2: Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings 2

Under Horizon 2020 Programme
Project Period: 01/05/2017-31/10/2020
Relevant UNICA working group: UNICA GREEN
Coordinator: National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS-UK)

Partners: UNICA, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, University of Cyprus, University of Bucharest, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (all four UNICA members), Technical University of Crete, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Ecovisum LTD, Union of Students in Ireland, Monfort University

UNICA's role: Leader of External Communication

Aim: Building on the achievements of SAVES project, SAVES2 aims to promote sustainable energy behaviours among over 219,000 university students in 7 countries, with a special attention dedicated to fuel poverty and practical ways of reducing students' exposure to this issue.

Website: ***https://saves.nus.org.uk/***

LEAD: Governance and Academic Leadership of Chinese and European Universities in the Context of Innovation and Internationalisation

Under Erasmus+ KA2: Capacity Building in Higher Education

Project period: 01/11/2015 – 31/10/2017

Coordinator: Vrije Universiteit Brussel (UNICA member)

Co-coordinator: UNICA

Partners: Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Middle East Technical University (both UNICA members), University of Tampere, Peking University, Tongji University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), National Academy of Education Administration (NAEA), Yunnan Normal University

UNICA's role: Co-Coordinator, Developing training modules for university leadership, Dissemination

Aim: Through the development of training modules, site visits, academic leadership seminars, job shadowing & other training activities, the project aims at improving the competences of academic leadership in governance for innovation and modernisation of Higher Education, facilitating the Europe-China cooperation in education and research, and supporting HEIs from both Europe and China in strategic planning and change management.

Activities:

- Seminars and training/coaching on university governance and leadership for academic leaders
- Job shadowing
- Round tables on HEI academic leadership
- University site visits for academic leaders focusing on university governance related issues

HousErasmus+: Improving Mobility and Accommodation

Under Erasmus+ KA3: Forward-Looking Cooperation

Project period: 01/11/2015 – 31/10/2017
Relevant UNICA Working Group: International Relations Officers

Coordinator: Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

Partners: UNICA, European University Foundation, Compostela Group of Universities

UNICA's role: Quality Assurance, organisation of study visits and a regional conference, supporting dissemination of online campaigns

Aim: Identifying the challenges international students and trainees face when looking for accommodation abroad and making concrete recommendations on how to improve the situation for all mobility students and trainees in Europe

Website: ***www.houserasmus.eu***

Outcomes: The **HousErasmus+ Research Report** provides a detailed picture of the present situation of student accommodation for mobile students, which is a result of analysis of several research activities including desk research, five surveys conducted among five groups of stakeholders (students, student organisations, HEIs, housing providers (public and private) and policymakers), study visits carried out around Europe and four regional conferences. Research findings are consolidated into 9 pressing issues that need to be addressed in order to improve the situation.

Based on the research conclusions, a list of challenge-specific recommendations and concrete actions was included in the **HE+ Recommendations & Good Practice booklet.**

The HousErasmus+ Research Report and the Recommendations & Good Practice booklet can be found at:

http://www.unica-network.eu/page/publications

MappED!: Inclusive mobility

Under Erasmus+ KA2: Strategic Partnerships

Project period: 01/11/2015 – 31/10/2017
Relevant UNICA Working Group: International Relations Officers
Coordinator: Erasmus Student Network

Partners: UNICA, University of Warsaw (UNICA member), ESN France, Jaccede, AHEAD, Universidade de Vigo

UNICA's role: Quality Assurance and Dissemination

Aim: Creating an interactive and mobile-ready map of accessible universities around Europe and encouraging students with disabilities to experience an exchange period abroad

Website: ***www.mapped.esn.org***

Launched in March 2017, MappED! is a unique repository where students with disabilities can find all information they may need before going on mobility. The MappED! interactive map rates universities on several factors, ranging from: campus accessibility, user-friendliness of university website and the availability of services for students with disabilities. MappED! also features an **Info Centre**, where students are able to read about the special funding opportunities available and read many inspirational 'success stories' of those who managed to complete their study period without their disability standing in the way. Learn more on ***www.mapped.esn.org***!

CALOHEE: Measuring and Comparing Achievements of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Europe

Under Erasmus+ KA3: Forward-Looking Cooperation
Project period: 01/11/2015 – 31/10/2017
Relevant UNICA Working Groups: EduLAB, International Relations Officers

Coordinator: University of Groningen

Partners: Full list available at: ***https://www.calohee.eu/partnership/***

UNICA's role: Member of Advisory Board and Partner in Dissemination

Aim: Developing infrastructure that will make it possible to test Bachelor and Master students' performance Europe-wide across a range of fields, in a way that satisfies the needs of various stakeholders in the European Higher Education community

Website: ***www.calohee.eu***

COMPLETED PROJECTS

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 – 28/02/2017
Relevant UNICA Working Group: UNICA-MED & Equal Opportunities

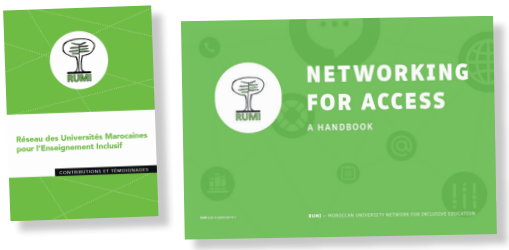
Aim: Establishing a network of Moroccan universities to promote procedures and good practices in the field of inclusive education and equal opportunities in Morocco

Partners: Roma Tre University, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (both UNICA members), Erasmus Access Network, Compostela Group of Universities, Fontys University of Applied Sciences, Université Paul Valéry - Montpellier 3, Ministry of HE (Morocco), Observatoire National du Developpement Humain – ONDH, Moroccan Association of Law Students, 9 Moroccan universities

Target groups:

- Students with disabilities and special needs
- Students representing foreign nationality or a different cultural background
- Students suffering from socio-economic vulnerability
- Students facing difficulties on a basis of gender equality

Activities & Outcomes:



- Nation-wide survey on inclusion
- Best practice exchange
- Awareness-raising campaign
- Four trainings in Europe
- Establishment of centres for students with special needs
- Publication of the "Networking for Access" Handbook (available at: ***http://www.unica-network.eu/page/publications)***
- Foundation of the RUMI Network

Website: ***www.rumi-project.org***

UZDOC: Enhancing Quality of Doctoral Education at Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan

Under TEMPUS IV – Structural Measures

Project Period: 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2016
Relevant UNICA Working Group: Doctoral Education

Aim: Enhancing the quality of doctoral education in Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan, in line with the principles of the European Higher Education Area

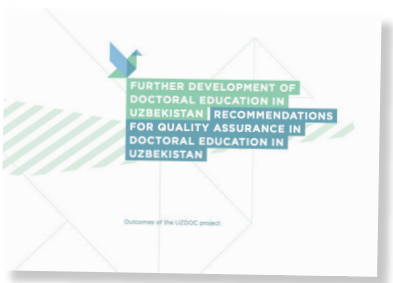
Coordinator: UNICA

Partners: University of Zagreb, Sapienza University of Rome, Comenius University in Bratislava (all three UNICA members), University of Granada, Athens University of Economics and Business, and 7 Uzbek institutions: Tashkent Financial Institute, Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture, Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, Berdakh Qaraqalpaq State University, Karshi State University, Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Activities & Outcomes:

- Analysing the legal and regulatory framework of doctoral education in Uzbekistan and comparing it with the EHEA framework
- Acquainting Uzbek HEIs with the organisation of doctoral education in the EHEA during four study visits
- Developing guidelines and recommendations for further development of doctoral education in Uzbekistan
- Report on the legal framework of doctoral education in Uzbekistan
- Two-part publication "Guidelines for the development of doctoral programmes" and "Recommendations for national quality assurance standards in doctoral education in Uzbekistan" (available at: ***http://www.unica-network.eu/page/publications***)
- Establishment of offices for doctoral education at each Uzbek partner university

Website: ***www.uzdoc.eu***



GENOVATE: Transforming Organisational Culture for Gender Equality in Research and Innovation

Under FP7: Science in Society SiS 2012 Programme

Project period: 01/04/2014-30/06/2017
Relevant UNICA Working Group: EU Research Liaison Officers

Coordinator: University of Bradford

Partners: UNICA, Ankara University (UNICA member), Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Trnava University, University College Cork, Lulea University of Technology, University of Naples

UNICA's role: Dissemination, Member of International Advisory Board

Aim: Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men at universities by encouraging a more gender-aware management in research and scientific bodies of Higher Education Institutions

Website: ***www.genovate.eu***

GETTING THE MESSAGE THROUGH

UNICA WEBSITE

The website ***www.unica-network.eu*** is the main communication channel of the Network. It provides information about the organisation itself, upcoming and past activities, UNICA Working Groups, news from the Network and its partners. In the past academic year, the website gained a **new "Publications" section** where you can find UNICA annual reports, work plans, and publications produced in the framework of EU projects coordinated by UNICA.

2016/2017 Facts and figures:

- 22,705 unique visitors (increase by 38% compared to the previous year)
- 107,684 page views
- Most popular sections: "Activities by cluster", "Members & Contacts" and "UNICA at a glance"
- Most popular event page: UNICA General Assembly 2016, University of Warsaw

UNICA NEWSLETTER

Since 2006, UNICA sends newsletters to the UNICA Member Universities and partners. For 10 years, UNICA newsletter "e-commUNICAtion" was sent out 4 times per year. In March 2016, in order to strengthen the communication between UNICA Board, Secretariat and UNICA Members, the UNICA newsletter gained a new look and became a monthly issued "News from UNICA".

The **"Members in the Spotlight" section** is dedicated to the news and recent achievements of UNICA Member Universities: Do not hesitate to share your story with us! To make sure our activities do not go unnoticed, we created **"Upcoming Activities" section** with the calendar of approaching meetings.

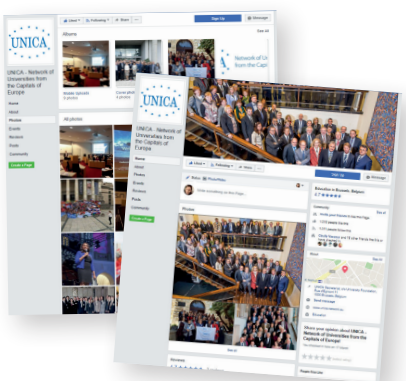
2016/2017 Facts and figures

- 13 newsletter issues (including 2 special editions)
- 600+ subscribers
- Highest number of readers: August 2017 Issue

UNICA FACEBOOK PAGE & GROUPS

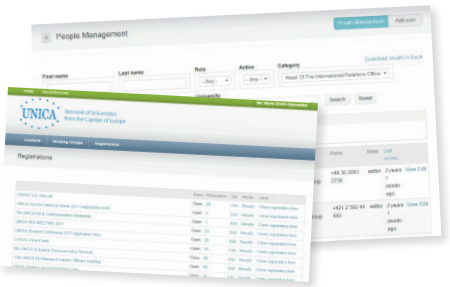
UNICA Facebook page serves as an additional tool for reporting on UNICA news and activities. Created in May 2013, it now counts **more than 1,000 followers.**

Closed Facebook groups "UNICA IRO Group" (21 members) and "UNICA PR and Communication Group" (35 members) serve the Working Group members as additional, informal forums for the exchange of ideas.



UNICA ONLINE DATABASE

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



To ensure a smooth information flow in the Network, we kindly ask you to regularly update your university contacts in the UNICA database and inform the UNICA Secretariat (*office@unica-network.eu*) about the upcoming Rector/ President elections as well as about any recent changes in academic leadership and senior management, especially in areas related to UNICA Working Groups (International Relations, Research, Doctoral Education, University Libraries, Communication & Marketing).

UNICA SUMMER & WINTER SCHOOLS PORTAL

In the academic year 2016/2017, **140 programmes** organised by **30 UNICA Member Universities** and their partners were announced on the UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal ***(www.unicasummershools.eu, www.unicawinterschools.eu).***

2016/2017 Facts and figures

- 27,494 unique visitors (increase by 18% compared to the previous year)
- 115,594 page views
- Average session duration: 00:03:00
- Highest number of users by country: Germany, India, Italy, US, UK.

STAFFMOBILITY.EU PLATFORM

Created in the framework of the UNICA-led IMOTION project funded through the Lifelong Learning Programme, the platform (www.staffmobility.eu) currently lists more than 200 staff training weeks for university administrative and technical staff. To respond to the growing interest, **new "Target group" categories** were recently added and a further development of the platform, allowing the users to announce other types of training opportunities, is envisaged for the next academic year. The platform is listed on the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility pages of the European Commission.

2016/2017 Facts and figures:

- 2016/2017: 85,871 unique visitors (increase by 37% compared to the previous year)
- 52,2% returning visitors
- Average session duration: 00:05:30
- Highest number of users by country:
  1. Poland
  2. Germany
  3. Spain

UNICA GREEN WEBSITE

Apart from information about the initiative itself, the UNICA GREEN website (http://green.unica-network.eu/) contains news, a "green" media library, **Green Practices database**, and a **Campus Green Corners** section which offers a virtual tour around green spaces in the campuses of UNICA Member Universities.

2016/2017 facts and figures:

- 1,750 unique visitors
- 4,856 page views

PEOPLE

UNICA BOARD

Prof. Luciano SASO
President
Sapienza University of Rome
luciano.saso@uniroma1.it

Prof. Serge JAUMAIN
Steering Committee Member
Université Libre de Bruxelles
serge.jaumain@ulb.ac.be

Prof. Jacques LANARÈS
Steering Committee Member
Université de Lausanne
jacques.lanares@unil.ch

Prof. Franck LEPREVOST
Steering Committee Member
University of Luxembourg
franck.leprevost@uni.lu

Prof. António RENDAS
Steering Committee Member
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
arendas@unl.pt

Prof. Tomáš ZIMA
Steering Committee Member
Charles University
rektor@ruk.cuni.cz

IRO OBSERVERS TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Ms Hedvig Gyde THOMSEN
IRO Observer
University of Copenhagen
e-mail: hgt@adm.ku.dk

Ms Alina GRZIBOVSKA
Deputy IRO Observer
University of Latvia
alina.grzibovska@lu.lv

UNICA SECRETARIAT

Kris DEJONCKHEERE
Secretary General
kris.dejonckheere@unica-network.eu

Marta BRELIH-WASOWSKA
Project & Communications Officer
marta.wasowska@unica-network.eu

Marta RACHLEWICZ
Project & Event Officer
marta.rachlewicz@unica-network.eu

Laura BROSSICO
UNICA Assistant
office@unica-network.eu

UNICA TRAINEES 2016-2017

Eva MALOVRH
Communications Trainee
Student of the University of Ljubljana
office5@unica-network.eu

Kertu KUUSKARU
Project Assistant (Trainee)
Student of Vrije Universiteit Brussel
office3@unica-network.eu

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We recognize with deep appreciation that the fulfilment of our goals largely depends on the amount of input and commitment UNICA Member Universities are willing to give. This is why it is not just convention to thank our Host Universities: We extend our sincere thanks for your hospitality, engagement and efforts.

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

The UNICA President,
Steering Committee
and Secretariat

UNICA MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

UNICA brings together 46 Member Universities from 35 European capitals

UNICA
Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

ALBANIA
Tirana University
Polytechnic University of Tirana

AUTRIA
Universität Wien

BELGIUM
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Université Libre de Bruxelles

BULGARIA
Sofia University
St. Kliment Ohridski

CROATIA
University of Zagreb

CYPRUS
University of Cyprus

CZECH REPUBLIC
Charles University

DENMARK
University of Copenhagen

ESTONIA
Tallinn University
Tallinn University of Technology

FINLAND
University of Helsinki

FRANCE
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3
Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Université Paris-Dauphine

FYR OF MACEDONIA
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje

GERMANY
Freie Universität Berlin
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

GREECE
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

HUNGARY
Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest

IRELAND
University College Dublin

ICELAND
University of Iceland

ITALY
Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza
Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata
Università degli Studi di Roma Tre

LATVIA
University of Latvia

LITHUANIA
Vilnius University

LUXEMBOURG
University of Luxembourg

THE NETHERLANDS
Universiteit van Amsterdam

NORWAY
University of Oslo

POLAND
University of Warsaw

PORTUGAL
Universidade de Lisboa
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

ROMANIA
University of Bucharest

RUSSIA
Lomonosov Moscow State University
Higher School of Economics Moscow

SERBIA
University of Belgrade

SLOVAKIA
Comenius University in Bratislava

SLOVENIA
University of Ljubljana

SPAIN
Universidad Complutense de Madrid

SWEDEN
Stockholm University

SWITZERLAND
Université de Lausanne

TURKEY
Middle East Technical University
Ankara University

UNITED KINGDOM
King's College London

Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

UNICA – Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe was founded in 1990. It currently brings together 46 universities from 35 capital cities of Europe, combining over 150,000 university staff and 1.800,000 students. UNICA provides a forum for its Members to reflect on the latest developments and demands of strategic change in university research, education and administration. To achieve its aims, UNICA carries out member-driven activities, the content, format, and frequency of which depend substantially on UNICA Member Universities' engagement and interest. UNICA is also active in the field of European projects, both as coordinator and partner.

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UNICA Secretariat
c/o University Foundation | Rue d'Egmont 11 | 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM

+32(0) 2 514 79 00

office@unica-network.eu

www.unica-network.eu

UNICA-Network

UNICA-Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

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