



Network of Universities  
from the Capitals of Europe

## 30<sup>th</sup> 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 **30<sup>th</sup> 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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### Three Decades of UNICA: achievements, challenges and opportunities for European universities in the COVID-19 era

#### PROGRAMME (as of 16 November 2020)

9:30 – 12:15	<b>UNICA ADMINISTRATIVE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b>
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch break
13:00 – 17:10	<b>UNICA RECTORS SEMINAR</b> <b>Overall Chair: Luciano Saso</b> , UNICA President
13:00 - 13:10	Welcome address by <b>Luciano Saso</b> , UNICA President
13:10 – 13:15	Audio message by <b>Mariya Gabriel</b> , EU Commissioner Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>1990-2020: UNICA &amp; Europe, two success stories</b> <b>Chair: Tanja Börzel</b> , 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	<b>Sabine Kunst</b> , President, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and <b>Günter M. Ziegler</b> , President, Freie Universität Berlin
13:35 – 13:50	<b>Luciano Saso</b> , UNICA President
13:50 – 14:20	Discussion
14:20 – 14:30	Comfort break

<b>Session 2</b>	<p><b>Challenges &amp; opportunities for universities in the COVID-19 era</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Sorin Costreie</b>, 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 <b>Ulrich Grothus</b> , 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 <b>Sari Lindblom</b> , 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 <b>Jón Atli Benediktsson</b> , Rector, University of Iceland
15:15 – 15:40	Discussion
15:40 – 15:50	Comfort break
<b>Session 3</b>	<p><b>The future relevance of Higher Education for society</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Carmela Calès Bourdet</b>, 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 <b>Andrew Deeks</b> , President, University College Dublin
16:05 – 16:20	<i>Universities and Society 5.0</i> , by <b>Igor Papič</b> , Rector, University of Ljubljana
16:20 – 16:35	<i>Looking for silver-linings</i> , by <b>Peter Mathieson</b> , Principal, University of Edinburgh
16:35 – 17:00	Discussion
17:00 – 17:10	<b>Closing</b>