

Sharing,
learning,
adding value

LET'S UNICA!
UNICA WORK PLAN
2018/2019



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

UNICA Work Plan 2018/2019

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THREE FOCAL POINTS FOR UNICA IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/2019

The announcement of the new “European university networks” initiative provided a fresh impetus and prompted Higher Education networks and associations to pause and reflect on their unique value propositions. In the new academic year, we want to build on what makes UNICA special, while staying open to new opportunities and proposals from our Members.

1 The added value of metropolitan, urban universities



Whether located right in the city centre among the historic landmarks or secluded on the city’s outskirts, being a **metropolitan, urban university** is definitely a distinctive characteristic of UNICA Members, and it carries benefits and challenges alike. Through the “**University, Culture and the City**” initiative and **UNICA’s involvement in the Diplomatic, Economic, Academic and Cultural (DEAC) Missions** organised in collaboration with CIDIC (International Consular and Diplomatic Circle), we want to highlight the place that UNICA Member Universities hold in the Cities’ social, cultural, economic life, and the special role they play in the development of the (capital) city and the country as a whole. At the same time, we have also set out the ambition to address the “urban” component and place more focus on interdisciplinary research during activities of other UNICA Working Groups and Seminars for Rectors & Vice-Rectors. To this end, the February **UNICA Seminar for Vice-Rectors & Vice-Presidents for Research: *Urban research universities addressing global challenges***, to be hosted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel, will be dedicated to the application of university research for urban and regional policy making and for implementing transformative urban changes.

2 UNICA as a forum for academic leadership

Over the last three academic years, we have worked towards **strengthening the links with academic leadership** of UNICA Member Universities and helping academic leaders within the Network to **develop trust-based relationships**. In the new academic year, **eight Rectors meetings** will take place, including three dedicated



Rectors Seminars and the first edition of a MASTER CLASS on Internationalisation for Vice-Rectors & Vice-Presidents for International Affairs, organised jointly with International Association of Universities (IAU). The meetings will serve as a **forum for academic leaders from UNICA Member Universities** to exchange experiences on issues related to policy development, strategic planning and change management at universities. At the same time, many of the meetings will highlight **important milestones in the history of the Hosting Universities**: We take pride in the fact that UNICA Rectors Seminars taking place in the academic year 2018/2019 will mark the 350th founding anniversary of the University of Zagreb and the centennial jubilees of Comenius University in Bratislava and the University of Latvia.

3 Continuous competency development & peer learning for university staff



With the expansion of university missions, growth of university services and ongoing changes in the European Higher Education landscape, university academic and non-academic staff are expected to continuously upgrade their competencies. At UNICA, we strongly believe that the experience in giving advice, highlighted by numerous consultancies

now offering training for university staff, often comes second to the actual **sharing of experience** among those working in the field. For this reason, UNICA continues to organise meetings that serve as a **platform for new information** and provide a **friendly environment** for peer learning, peer counselling and networking. We also want to facilitate and support the development of **project proposals** that can respond directly to the challenges faced by university staff in their day-to-day work. In this context, we are especially looking forward to starting the **Teaching with Erasmus+ project**, which will seek to facilitate access to teaching mobility opportunities (especially for junior teaching staff) and improve quality assurance of teaching mobility. The online platform to be developed in the project's framework will be an **extension of the existing IMOTION Staffmobility.eu website** and will enable the development of new website functionalities for users with both academic and non-academic positions.

UNICA ACTIVITIES 2018/2019

BY CLUSTER



INTERNATIONALISATION & MOBILITY



- **25th anniversary UNICA IRO meeting** & IRO Observer elections, Tallinn University & Tallinn University of Technology, 7-8 May 2019
- **3rd UNICA Summer & Winter School Organisers meeting**, Tallinn University & Tallinn University of Technology, **6 May 2019** (*the meeting is open to Summer & Winter Schools Managers from UNICA Member Universities and to IROs participating in the 25th anniversary IRO meeting*)
- Preparation of the UNICA IRO meeting 2020, *Host University and meeting dates to be announced*
- UNICA informal meeting & reception during the EAIE Annual Conference 2019 in Helsinki, **25 September 2019** (*date to be confirmed*)
- Contact Person/IRO meeting during the UNICA GA 2018, Comenius University in Bratislava, **15 November 2018**
- Contact Person/IRO meeting during the UNICA GA 2019, King's College London, **28 November 2019**
- **8th UNICA PR & Communication Workshop: *Is university advertising pushing the boundaries too far? Best practices and lessons learned from PR to marketing and beyond!***, University of Cyprus, **2-3 May 2019**
- Preparation of the 9th UNICA PR & Communication Workshop, *Host University and meeting dates to be announced*

- Maintenance and development of new functionalities of the **Staffmobility.eu** platform (*a new component for academic mobility will be developed in the framework of the Teaching with Erasmus+ project*)
- Maintenance and regular updates of the **UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal: unicasummerschools.eu, unicawinterschools.eu**

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



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

Under Erasmus+ (KA2: Strategic partnerships)

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

Relevant UNICA working group: International Relations Officers, EduLAB

Project target group: academic staff, International Relations Officers, university welcome services, students, Higher Education associations

Coordinator: University of Oslo (UNICA member)

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

Aim: In the context of the global migration crisis and the conflicting pressures & priorities of HE internationalisation, the ACADEMIC REFUGE project aims to improve the capacity of European universities to support refugee students and threatened academics on European campuses. It also promotes respect for and protection of core Higher Education values.

The key project activities are:

- development of a staff training curriculum on welcoming refugee students and threatened academics to European campuses and organisation of a pilot staff training,
- launch of a MOOC on Academic Freedom and other core Higher Education values,
- creation of an online publication on putting HE values into practice.

UNICA's role: Editor of the e-Handbook on putting core academic values into practice, active contribution to all deliverables of the project, design of the staff training week curriculum on welcoming refugee students and academics on European campuses

A call for submissions for the e-Handbook is currently open. More information available at: <http://www.unica-network.eu/news/call-submissions-putting-core-higher>

UPCOMING PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

ACADEMIC REFUGE Final Conference & launch of the e-Handbook on putting Higher Education values into practice (open to representatives of UNICA Member Universities), Brussels, **13-14 June 2019**

Find more information on the project website:

<http://www.uio.no/english/about/global/globally-engaged/academic-refuge/>

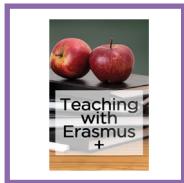


EDUCATION



- **EduLAB meeting 2018: *Innovation in Teaching and Employability***, National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow), **6-7 December 2018**
- Preparation of the 20th anniversary **EduLAB meeting 2019** (*Host University and dates to be confirmed*)

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



Teaching with Erasmus+

Under Erasmus+ (KA2: Strategic partnerships)

Project Period: 01/11/2018 - 28/02/2021

Relevant UNICA working group: EduLAB, International Relations Officers

Project target group: academic staff (especially junior teaching staff), International Relations Officers, Human Resources Officers

Coordinator: Eötvös Loránd University Budapest (UNICA member)

Partners: European University Foundation, UNICA, UniLaSalle, University of Alcalá

Aim: Erasmus Impact Study 2014 identified Staff mobility (including the one of teachers) as key priority to be included in internationalisation strategies of HEIs. In several previous projects and studies on the topic, have been identified as obstacles that prevent teaching staff (and institutions) from using staff mobility schemes.

The project aims to tackle these issues by:

- developing a set of criteria to measure the quality of teaching mobility and providing a framework of assessment of teaching mobility activities,
- creating an online database of innovative teaching methodologies and tools to support teaching mobility,
- launching an online platform (Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility Platform, ETMP) where HEIs can offer and find teaching opportunities; the platform will be an extension of Staffmobility.eu platform created in the framework of IMOTION project and currently maintained by UNICA,
- devising policy recommendations on teaching mobility, to be incorporated in the next EU higher education programme post 2020.

UNICA's role: Contribution to the development of the ETMP platform and the re-design of Staffmobility.eu, co-leading dissemination activities together with European University Foundation (EUF), impact analysis of the project and finalising the project's policy recommendations.



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- Preparation of the 14th UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers meeting, October/November 2019 (*Host University and dates to be confirmed*)
- **10th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS**, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, **1-4 September 2019**



EUROPEAN PROJECTS



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

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

Project Period: 15/10/2016- 14/10/2019

Relevant UNICA working group: Doctoral Education

Project target group: Uzbek governmental bodies responsible for the development of doctoral education, academic and non-academic staff working in doctoral education, doctoral supervisors, doctoral candidates, companies interested in hiring doctoral candidates and doctorate holders

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

Aim: Although significant steps have been made toward the modernisation and alignment of Uzbek doctoral education with the state-of-the-art developments

in the European Higher Education Area, there are still many challenges to be tackled. Building on the outcomes of the former UZDOC project, conducted with the support of the EU Tempus programme, UZDOC 2.0. aims at furthering the quality of doctoral education at Uzbek partner HE Institutions and strengthening the implementation of doctoral education reforms in Uzbekistan.

Specific project objectives:

- To improve the capacity of Uzbekistan HEIs for supporting doctoral education, in line with the latest 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.

Find more information on the project's website: www.uzdoc.eu



POLICY & STRATEGY

Informal Rectors meetings



- **Informal UNICA Rectors meeting & reception** on the occasion of the EUA Annual Conference, Paris, **11 April 2019** (*time & venue to be confirmed*)

Seminars for academic leadership



- **UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018 RECTORS SEMINAR: *Universities in Europe: From a hundred years back to a hundred years forward***, as part of the centennial founding anniversary of Comenius University in Bratislava, **16 November 2018**
- **Seminar for Vice-Rectors/Vice-Presidents for Research: *Urban research universities addressing global challenges***, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, **7-8 February 2019**

- **RECTORS SEMINAR: *Shaping the University of the 21st century***, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, **28 February-1 March 2019**
- **UNICA-International Association of Universities (IAU) Joint MASTER CLASS on Internationalisation** for Vice-Rectors/ Vice-Presidents for International Affairs, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies, University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, **7-10 April 2019**
- **RECTORS SEMINAR** in the framework of 350th anniversary celebrations of the University of Zagreb, late April/May 2019 (*exact dates to be confirmed*)
- **RECTORS SEMINAR: *Networking for Mobilising the Research, Innovation and Education Capacities of European Universities*** as part of centennial anniversary celebrations of the University of Latvia, **30 September-1 October 2019**
- **UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019 RECTORS SEMINAR: *Creative Entrepreneurship: leading the next generation***, King's College London, **29 November 2019**

Scholarly Communication



- **9th UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar**, Vilnius University, (*exact dates to be confirmed*)



MISSION & LINK WITH SOCIETY



- **9th UNICA GREEN Workshop: *Sustainable lifestyles: What role can universities play?***, University of Lausanne, **6-8 March 2019**
- Preparation of the 10th anniversary UNICA GREEN Workshop, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik (*dates to be confirmed*)
- Preparation of the 3rd 'University, Culture and the City' meeting (*Host University and dates to be confirmed*)

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



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

Project target group: dormitory providers, university sustainability managers, students and recent graduates, student associations, managers of student/welcome services

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

Aim: SAVES2 continues the efforts of the widely acknowledged **SAVES project** (funded by the EU Intelligent Energy Europe Programme in 2014–2017), that expanded the Student Switch Off campaign run by the National Union of Students in the UK to four other EU countries (Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania and Sweden) and resulted in **over 4 GWhs of saved energy**. The SAVES2 project intends to instill sustainable energy behaviours among university students in 7 countries to help them reduce their exposure to fuel poverty and empower them to continue energy-saving actions throughout their daily lives. During 3.5 years of the project, SAVES2 **aims to reach 1 14,000 students** living in dormitories with the Students Switch Off campaign (38,000 students per academic year) and save quantifiable amounts of energy in student halls (9GWhs). At the same time, it seeks to engage **over 100,000 students** planning to move into or living in the private-rented sector to encourage them to make housing choices that minimise their exposure to fuel poverty and improve their understanding of energy performance certification and energy bills.

UNICA's role: Dissemination Task Leader

Find more information on the project website: <https://saves.nus.org.uk/>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018 & 2019

UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018 and RECTORS SEMINAR: Universities in Europe: From a hundred years back to a hundred years forward

held as part of the Comenius University's
100th founding anniversary celebrations
Comenius University in Bratislava,
15-16 November 2018



UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019 UNICA President & Steering Committee elections and RECTORS SEMINAR: Creative Entrepreneurship: leading the next generation

King's College London,
28-29 November 2019



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2019

The next **2019 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS** will be in February, April/May, September and on 27 & 29 November at King's College London.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS & ORGANISATIONS

In the academic year 2018-2019, UNICA will continue the cooperation with peer university networks and other Higher Education organisations:

COLLABORATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA):

UNICA AS COLLECTIVE ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- On the organisation of the next, **5th Euro-Arab (AECHE) Conference in Higher Education**
- with the EUA Council of Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) in the context of the **UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS**

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

- with the **League of European Research Universities (LERU), European University Association, the Guild, Coimbra Group of Universities** and other Higher Education associations: developing joint policy statements and recommendations in the context of preparations for the next research and innovation framework programme, Horizon Europe
- with **International Association of Universities (IAU)** on joint UNICA-IAU Master Class on internationalisation & projects related to open access, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development at universities (UNICA as IAU member)
- with **European University Foundation, Coimbra Group of Universities, SGroup European Universities' Network and YERUN-Young Research Universities Network** in the framework of the Open University Alliance (UNICA as part of the Steering Committee), a spin-off initiative of Erasmus Without Paper aimed at open source software movement at European HEIs
- with **International Diplomatic and Consular Circle** (Cercle international diplomatique et consulaire, CIDIC): preparation of the Diplomatic, Economic, Academic and Cultural (DEAC) Missions to the countries holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (in close cooperation with UNICA Member Universities from countries holding the EU Presidency)

- with **Coimbra Group of Universities** on joint initiatives in the field of doctoral education, research and education policies & strategies
- with **Scholars at Risk** (UNICA as affiliate member), **European University Association** (EUA), and **European Association for International Education** (EAIE) in ACADEMIC REFUGE project and other joint initiatives related to academic freedom, ethics and values in international partnerships
- with **PRIDE Network – Professionals in Doctoral Education** in the context of the UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS
- with **European Women Rectors Association (EWORA)** on initiatives aimed at strengthening women’s representation at decision-making levels of higher education and academic research
- with **Erasmus Student Network** and the **European Students’ Union** on initiatives related to the social impact of internationalisation and raising inclusiveness of international student mobility programmes



UNICA brings together **49 Member Universities** from **37 European capitals**

ALBANIA

Tirana University
Polytechnic University of Tirana

AUTRIA

Universität Wien

BELGIUM

Université Libre de Bruxelles
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

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

Sorbonne Université
Université Paris-Dauphine
Université Sorbonne
Nouvelle - Paris 3

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

Higher School of Economics Moscow
Lomonosov Moscow State
University

SERBIA

University of Belgrade

SLOVAKIA

Comenius University in
Bratislava

SLOVENIA

University of Ljubljana

SPAIN

Universidad Complutense
de Madrid
Universidad Carlos III
de Madrid

SWEDEN

Stockholm University

SWITZERLAND

Université de Lausanne

TURKEY

Middle East Technical
University
Ankara University

UKRAINE

Kyiv Polytechnic Institute


UNITED KINGDOM

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