



UNICA Green Webinars

Social and Civic Responsibility:
Adopting a Whole
Institution Approach
26 March 2021 | 11:00 - 12:30 (CET)

Promoted by the
University of Edinburgh

Please note that participation is free
but registration is mandatory via the [UNICA website](#).

UNICA – University of Edinburgh webinar “Social and Civic Responsibility – Adopting a Whole Institution Approach”

26 March 2021 | 11:00 to 12:30 (CET)

Social and civic responsibility means helping shape society in a positive way, such as by reducing inequalities or improving environmental protection.

As large organisations, universities can have both positive and negative impacts on the natural environment and society, both locally and globally. By focusing efforts on social and civic responsibility, universities can actively choose to increase the positive impacts through its learning and teaching, academic research, operations and partnerships.

This session will provide case studies of universities adopting whole institution approaches to social and civic responsibility issues. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to share and talk through opportunities and challenges at institutions to adopting a whole institution approach.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

(as of 23 March 2021)

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| 11:00 – 11:10 | <p>Welcome addresses and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luciano SASO, UNICA President • Inês CABRITA, Project Manager, Université libre de Bruxelles • Matthew LAWSON, Student Engagement, Events and Reporting Manager, University of Edinburgh |
| 11:10 – 11:50 | <p>Case studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and Civic Responsibility: Adopting a whole-institution approach at the University of Edinburgh by Matthew LAWSON, Student Engagement, Events and Reporting Manager, University of Edinburgh • Helen Sooväli-Sepping, Vice-Rector for Sustainable Development, University of Tallinn • Research projects on improving environmental protection – role of faculties and institutes of the University of Belgrade by Petar Marin, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Belgrade • Service at King’s: A whole of institution approach to positive social impact by Bronwyn Parry, Interim Vice President & Vice Principal (Service), King’s College London |
| 11:50 – 12:20 | <p>Discussion on opportunities and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group discussion on opportunities and challenges in breakout rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What does social and civic responsibility look like at your university? ○ What successes have you had in embedding social and civic responsibility into your university? ○ What challenges have you faced to embed social and civic responsibility into your university? • Reporting – Group representatives sharing their feedback key points |
| 12:20 – 12:30 | <p>Wrap-up and closing</p> |

Welcome addresses



Luciano Saso, President of UNICA

Prof. Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University in 1992. He is author of more than 220 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (SASO-L in www.pubmed.com, total impact factor > 500, H-index Google Scholar 45, Scopus 37). He coordinated several research projects in the field of pharmacology and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations, and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in several projects including IMS2020, EGRACONS, IMOTION, BUCUM, UZDOC, TRAIN and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by UNICA and other university networks. He coordinates the Sapienza team in the European University CIVIS (www.civis.eu). Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and in November 2019 he has been re-elected President of UNICA for the second mandate (2019-2023).



Inês Cabrita, Project Manager at the Environment & Mobility, Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

Inês Cabrita is the chair of the UNICA Green & SDGs working group. She holds a master's degree in Bioengineering from ULB and a master's degree in Environmental Monitoring, Modelling and Management from King's College London. She worked as a mobility and transport consultant before joining ULB's team in 2018. Her current work focuses mainly on climate action and on mobility (commuting and business travel).

Speakers



Matthew Lawson, Student Engagement, Events and Reporting Manager, University of Edinburgh

Matthew is currently the Student Engagement, Events and Reporting Manager at the University of Edinburgh's Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability. Matthew has over ten years of experience of working on sustainability, social and civic responsibility projects in the higher education sector. This has included working on projects in the academic curriculum, operations, student experience and partnerships, including the Erasmus+ funded 'European Students, Sustainability Auditing' Project. He is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, and is currently working towards fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

ABSTRACT

Social and Civic Responsibility: Adopting a whole-institution approach at the University of Edinburgh

In 2020, the University of Edinburgh published its new Social and Civic Responsibility Plan, setting out how it will shape society in a better way, both locally and globally. As a large organisation, Edinburgh can have both positive and negative impacts on people and the natural environment through everything it does – its academic research, learning and teaching, operations, people and partnerships. This presentation will provide an insight into the development of the plan, and the opportunities and challenges faced to date to embed our sustainability, social and civic responsibilities across everything we do.



Dr. Helen Sooväli-Sepping, Vice-Rector for Sustainable Development, Tallinn University

Helen Sooväli-Sepping is the Vice-Rector for Sustainable Development at the Tallinn University since 2020 and Professor of Environmental Management at the Institute of Natural and Health Sciences of Tallinn University (Estonia) since 2016. She works as a senior researcher at the Landscape and Culture Center of Tallinn University. Helen holds a PhD in human geography, attended at the Institute of Geography at the University of Tartu. She is involved in several projects and initiatives related to environmental issues, both globally and locally. She is member of the Estonian Fund for Nature and advances solutions to build resilient and sustainable cities. She also participated in the development of policies and research of the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance.

ABSTRACT TBC



Dr. Petar Marin, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Belgrade

He is professor at the faculty of biology of the University of Belgrade (Serbia). Dr Marin is Undergraduate, Master's studies and PhD at the Faculty of Biology.

Trainings: Department of Botany, University of Reading, UK. Study visits: Phytochemical Laboratory, CEBAS, Murcia (Spain); Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK). His research focuses on plant systematics, phytochemistry, biological activity of plant metabolites. Coordinator and participant of several research projects. He is also a referee for numerous international journals. He is

author of over 500 titles (204 articles in international, 46 in national journals, 260 conferences, 9 chapters, 4 university books, etc.). 5643 citations (*Google Scholar*). Currently, Dr Marin is Vice-Rector for Research of the University of Belgrade.

ABSTRACT

Research projects on improving environmental protection – role of faculties and institutes of the University of Belgrade

The University of Belgrade consists of 31 faculties and 11 research institutes. Its researchers participate in various projects dealing with environmental protection in urban and non-urban areas. For example, Belgrade Linear Park is seen as an attractive, self-sustainable, multi-functional, eco-technological, research and educational polygon, which promotes healthy living and nature protection. Most of the projects are independently coordinated by the UB faculties and institutes. A number of faculties offer degrees and fundamental and applied courses on environmental protection and environmental engineering at all academic levels. Interdisciplinary approaches in research could increase positive impacts, allowing a better understanding of the needs of a broad spectrum of stakeholders. More coordination is needed to optimise the impact of the various activities undertaken by the faculties and institutes of the University of Belgrade.



Bronwyn Parry, Interim Vice President & Vice Principal (Service), King's College London

Professor Bronwyn Parry is Vice President & Vice Principal for Service at King's College London. Service is our commitment to delivering positive social impact, at home in London, across the UK and around the world. A crucial way that we deliver on this commitment is by ensuring that the institution, its staff, students, and alumni have opportunities to become empowered changemakers, capable of delivering significant social reforms in our wider service to society. Bron also leads the King's groundbreaking [Sanctuary Programme](#), our response to the global issue of forced displacement. One of the flagship initiatives of the Sanctuary Programme is the Partnership for Digital Learning and Increased Access (PADILEIA). Working with colleagues and NGOs across the Middle East, in Europe and the UK, we have successfully delivered blended foundation and bespoke courses on FutureLearn, designed by King's Online and King's faculties. In recognition of our work to realise the educational potential of forcibly displaced young people, community organising charity Citizens UK named King's the first 'Refugees Welcome University' in 2020. Bron's particular specialisms lie in the fields of Datafication, Assisted Reproduction, Organ Donation, Dementia and Assisted Dying. Professor Parry is a former member of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and

currently an FRSA with core interests and competencies in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Widening Participation, Social Impact and Entrepreneurship.

ABSTRACT

Service at King's: A whole of institution approach to positive social impact

Back in 2017, King's College London launched Vision 2029, which is its long term strategic narrative, taking us up to our 200th anniversary in 2029. This was co-authored and co-created through a deep listening exercise that took place over 12 months. In every conversation, workshop and meeting, our community of students, staff and alumni said they were proud to be 'in service of society'. King's therefore made Service part of its core academic mission and appointed a Vice Principal to lead this work and embed changes in practice across the whole of the university. We have made significant progress against our goals in the last three years and received external recognition for our commitment to positive social impact. We are keen to share what we have learned along the way and also what we have planned for taking this work forward.