



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

European Universities Initiative:

**Sharing good practices, lessons learned
and plans among UNICA Members**

30 November, 10:00 am - 13:15 pm CET

Preliminary programme

(as of 27 November 2020)

Panel 1: Work in Progress: Lessons Learnt and Plans for European Universities in the (post-)Covid Era" - Representatives of alliances selected under Call 1

Verena BLECHINGER-TALCOTT, Vice-President, Free University of Berlin, **1EUROPE (UNA Europa)**

Henrik S. WEGENER, Rector, University of Copenhagen, **4EU+ (The 4EU+ Alliance)**

Artūras VASILIAUSKAS, Vice-Rector, Vilnius University, **ARQUS (ARQUS European University Alliance)**

Ferenc TAKÓ, Head of International Strategy Office, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), **CHARM European University (Challenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile, European University)**.

Astrid SÖDERBERGH WIDDING, President, Stockholm University, **CIVIS (a European Civic University Alliance)**

Fred WEERMAN, Professor, University of Amsterdam, **EPICUR (European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions)**

Igor PAPIĆ, Rector, University of Ljubljana, **EUTOPIA (European Universities Transforming to an Open, Inclusive Academy for 2050)**

Ina DRUVIETE, Vice-Rector, University of Latvia, **FORTHEM (Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education and Mobility)**

Luisa CORRADO, Scientific coordinator of YUFE, University of Tor Vergata, **YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe)**

Panel 2: Starting a European University in the (post-)Covid Era: Challenges and Plans for the Future - Representatives of alliances selected under Call 2

Jón Atli BENEDIKTSSON, President, University of Iceland, **Aurora Alliance**

Svein STOLEN, Rector, University of Oslo, **Circle U. European University**

Milan REMIS, Head of the Erasmus Office, Comenius University Bratislava, **ENLIGHT (European University Network to promote Equitable Quality of Life, Sustainability, and Global Engagement through Higher Education Transformation)**

Béla MERKELY, Semmelweis University, **EUniWell, (European University for Well-Being)**

Tiit LAND, Rector, Tallinn University of Technology, **EuroTeQ Engineering University**

Maria STOICHEVA, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, **T4E – Transform4Europe: The European University for Knowledge Entrepreneurs**

Damir BORAS, Rector, University of Zagreb, **UNIC (European University of Post-Industrial Cities)**

Eric TSCHIRHART, Full Professor, Special advisor to the rector for UNIVERSEH, University of Luxembourg, **UNIVERSEH (European Space University of Earth and Humanity)**

Biographies

Panel 1



Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Vice-President of the Free University Berlin, member of UNA Europa (1 EUROPE)

Verena Blechinger-Talcott is Vice President (for International Affairs) and Professor of Japanese Politics and Political Economy at the Freie Universitaet Berlin. She studied political science, Japanese studies and law in Munich, Kyoto and Tokyo. She received her M.A. in Japanese Studies in 1991 and her PhD in Political Science in 1997, both from Munich University. After working as a lecturer at Munich University (1993-97), she joined the German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo, in 1997, where she focussed on comparative research of Japanese politics and international relations. From 2001-2002, she was also Deputy Director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies. In 2002, she was appointed Advanced Research Fellow in the Program on US-Japan Relations at Harvard University, and from 2003-2004, she was Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at Hamilton College, Clinton (NY). In 2004, she joined the faculty of Freie Universitaet Berlin. At Freie Universitaet Berlin, she was Dean of the Department of History and Cultural Studies (2007-2011) and a member of the Academic Senate (2013-2018). She has been invited as Visiting Professor to the University of Tokyo (2008). In 2012, she became Director of the Graduate School of East Asian Studies which is funded through the German Federal Excellence Initiative. She is a member of the editorial advisory boards of "Social Science Japan Journal" (University of Tokyo) and "Japan Forum" (British Association for Japanese Studies) and a member of the International Advisory Board of the Institute of Social Science at the University of Tokyo, serves on the Advisory Board of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), and, since 2011, she is also the Treasurer of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS). She has written and edited several books and numerous articles on Japanese politics, international relations and political economy.



Henrik C. Wegener, Rector of the University of Copenhagen, member of 4EU+ Alliance (4EU+)

Appointed on March 1, 2017 as Rector No. 259 of the University of Copenhagen. He graduated in Food Science in 1988, and obtained a PhD in Microbiology, 1992, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. Finally he did a Master of Public Administration (MPA), 2007, Copenhagen Business School. He worked as research assistant, researcher, centre director, research professor and head of research at the National Veterinary Serum Laboratory and the Danish Institute for Food and Veterinary Research in the period 1988-2007. Director of The National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU), 2007-2011. Provost, He has been Executive Vice President, DTU, 2011-2017, seconded National Expert, World Health Organisation (WHO), 1999-2000 and finally chairman of the Scientific Advice Mechanism of the European Commission 2015-2017 (Source: University of Copenhagen website).



Artūras Vasiliauskas, Vice-Rector of the University of Latvia, member of ARQUS European University Alliance (ARQUS)

He gained his PhD from the University of London, supervised by Professor Robert Frost at King's College London. He is Lecturer in the History Faculty at Vilnius University and also Head of the British Council in Lithuania. His research focuses on political and social relations among the nobility in the sixteenth-and early seventeenth-century Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which has led him to challenge the orthodoxy of 'magnate oligarchy'.



Ferenc Takó, Head of the Rector's Cabinet International Strategy Office, Eötvös Loránd University, CHARM European University (Challenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile)

Ferenc Takó is head of the Rector's Cabinet International Strategy Office at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Hungary. He also serves as Project Manager of CHARM European University at ELTE since the foundation of the Alliance. Prior to these positions, Ferenc Takó was an assistant lecturer at the Department of Japanese Studies, Faculty of Humanities, ELTE where he is also working currently as an external lecturer. As head of the International Strategy Office, he is responsible for the coordination of the university's internationalisation processes, strategic planning and implementation. Coordinating the work of ELTE in the project of CHARM-EU, he is connected with more than 40 colleagues working directly in the project. Ferenc Takó earned his bachelor's degree in Japanese Studies (2010) and his master's degree in Philosophy (2013) at the Faculty of Humanities, ELTE. He holds a PhD degree in Philosophy, his dissertation was awarded the Cogito Prize of the Hungarian Philosophical Society and the l'Harmattan publishing company in 2018.



Astrid Söderbergh Widding, President of Stockholm University, member of European Civic University Alliance (CIVIS)

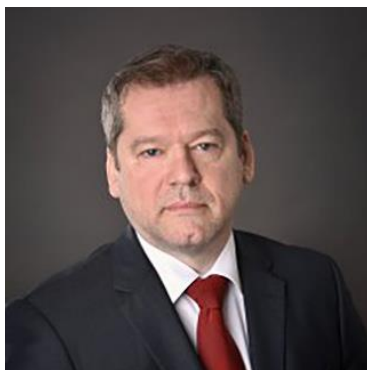
Astrid Söderbergh Widding has a background in Cinema Studies at Stockholm University, where she obtained her PhD in 1992. She was appointed Professor in Cinema Studies in 2000 and has held positions as Head of Department, Deputy Dean and Deputy President. In 2009 she initiated the Journal of Aesthetics and Culture, for which she was Editor-in-Chief from 2009 to 2012. Astrid Söderbergh Widding is a fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. She is Chair of the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions,

member of the EUA Council and Board Member at the Stockholm Environment Institute (Source: Stockholm University website).



Fred Weerman, Professor at the University of Amsterdam, member of the European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions (EPICUR)

Fred Weerman, professor of Dutch Linguistics, is currently dean of the Faculty of Humanities. He studied Dutch Language and Literature and General Linguistics at Utrecht University, where he received his doctor's degree in 1989. In 1988 he was appointed assistant professor at this university and in 1989 associate professor. In 1998 he became also affiliated to Utrecht's University College. He was appointed full professor at the University of Amsterdam in 2001. He was a visiting professor at several universities, among which Madison, Wisconsin and the Australian National University, Canberra. He was a fellow of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in 2011 (Source: University of Amsterdam website).



Igor Papič, Rector of the University of Ljubljana, member of European Universities Transforming to an Open, Inclusive Academy for 2050 (EUTOPIA)

Prof. Dr. Igor Papič is a professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana. He is the Head of the [Laboratory of Electricity Networks and Devices](#), and he was the Vice-Dean for Education from 2011 to 2013 and the Dean of the Faculty from 2013 to 2017. He received his bachelor's degree in 1992, his master's degree in 1995 and his PhD in 1998 from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana. From 1994 to 1996, he trained at Siemens' Power Transmission and Distribution department in Erlangen, Germany. In 2001, he taught as a guest professor at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. His research includes active compensators, FACTS (Flexible AC Transmission System) devices, power quality and smart grid concepts. His activity extends beyond the academic sphere as well, having served as Chairman of the Slovenian Smart Grids Technology Platform from 2006 to 2017. Prof. Dr. Igor Papič is also the Vice-Chair of the Slovenian CIGRÉ-CIRED Association, the editor of the international publication IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery, the convenor of the international working group Cigre Joint Working Group C4.42/CIRED Continuous Assessment of Low-order Harmonic Emissions from Customer Installations and the Vice-Chair of the international working group IEEE Harmonics Modelling and Simulation Task Force (Source: University of Ljubljana website).



Ina Druviete, Vice-Rector of the University of Latvia, member of Fostering Outreach within European Regions, Transnational Higher Education (FORTHEM)

She is the Vice-rector of the Humanities and Educational Sciences in the University of Latvia (since 2015), Dr. habil. philol. (since 1996), professor of General Linguistics (since 1997). She was the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia in 2004–2006 and 2014. She is a researcher in the Latvian Language Institute of the University of Latvia (since 1992), and a Member of the Latvian Parliament (since 2002). Ina Druviete graduated from the University of Latvia in 1981 with a degree in the Latvian language and literature. Gradually she became a respected researcher in this field and was awarded several grants (Fulbright Foreign Scholarship among them). She has published approximately 300 publications, mainly on linguistics, sociolinguistics and language policy (Source: Wikipedia).



Luisa CORRADO, Scientific coordinator of YUFE, Tor Vergata, member Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE)

Luisa Corrado is Professor of Economics (Department of Economics and Finance) and Scientific Coordinator of the YUFE Alliance at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. She has been the Coordinator of the Ph.D. in Economics, Law and Institutions since 2013. She is currently co-editor of the journal *Spatial Economic Analysis* which is specialized in theory and methods in spatial and network economics, in the analysis of economic, political and social development within cities and regions. She has been recipient of several international recognitions, among others she received the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Career Award 2019 and the Marie-Curie Excellence Award 2008 from the European Commission for Research in Social Science. The Marie-Curie Project EURECON was featured in the final report for the 6th Framework Programme by the European Commission as one of the 30 success stories from over 14.500 funded. Based on publications in the last 10 years, she features in the top 10% economists (top 5% female economists) listed in the worldwide Repec database, as of November 2020. A detailed list of publications can be found in her home page: <https://sites.google.com/site/luisacorrado/home>

Panel 2



Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University of Iceland, member of the Aurora Alliance

Jón Atli Benediktsson is Rector and President of the University of Iceland and professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the university. His research fields are remote sensing, image analysis, pattern recognition, machine learning, data fusion, analysis of biomedical signals and signal processing. He has published over 400 scientific articles in these fields and is one of the most influential scientists in the world according to Publons' lists in 2018 and 2019. (Source: Wikipedia)



Svein Stølen, Rector of the University of Oslo, member of the Circle U. European University (Circle U.)

Svein Stølen is a Professor of Chemistry, specializing in thermodynamics and functional materials. He has extensively combined advanced experimental methods with high performance computer analyses, and he has substantial experience with international research infrastructure and high performance computing. He has been permanently employed at UiO since 1991 and has been a professor since 1996. He has considerable leadership experience as Head of Department at the Department of Chemistry (2009 – 2012), as Vice-Dean at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (since 2013), as Chair of the Board of UiO:Life Science and of the Centre for Digital Life Norway, and through several external board posts. Svein is an eager presenter of popular science, has been the driving force behind one of the most-visited websites at UiO (periodesystemet.no), and received UiO's Dissemination Prize on behalf of the Department of Chemistry in 2011. He also played a key role in the development of the interdisciplinary programme of studies, Materials, Energy and Nanotechnology (Source: University of Oslo website).



Milan Remis, Head of Erasmus Office at the Comenius University Bratislava, member of European University Network to promote Equitable Quality of Life, Sustainability, and Global Engagement through Higher Education Transformation (ENLIGHT)

He graduated from Comenius University in 2000 and worked in IT and telecommunication sector. From 2004 he worked in the public service on various European projects supporting research, education and recognition of learning outcomes. He started as Head of Erasmus+ office at the Comenius University in 2020.



Béla Merkely, Rector of the Semmelweis University, member of the European University for Well-Being (EUniWell)

He is also Director of Semmelweis University's Heart and Vascular Centre Béla Merkely is a Hungarian interventional and sport cardiologist, HF and EP specialist. He is the director of Semmelweis University's Heart and Vascular Centre since 2007 and the current rector of Semmelweis University since 1 July 2018. Between 2010 and 2013 he was President of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology, since 2018 he is Honorary President of the Hungarian Society of Cardiology. He is also Honorary President of the Hungarian Heart Rhythm Association. Between 2014 and 2016 he was Councillor, between 2016 and 2018 he was Vice-President of the European Society of Cardiology.



Tiit Land, Rector of the Tallinn University of Technology, member of the EuroTeQ Engineering University (EuroTeQ)

Tiit Land took office as Rector of Tallinn University in 2011. In the years 2000-2006, he worked as Professor of Neurochemistry at Stockholm University, from 2007 as Professor of Chemistry at Tallinn University and in the years 2008-2011 held the post of Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Natural Sciences of Tallinn University. In 1994, Tiit Land was awarded a PhD in the specialty of neurochemistry and neurotoxicology from Stockholm University and in the years 1994–1999 he worked at the National Institutes of Health, USA, as a post-doctoral fellow and researcher.



Maria Stoicheva, Vice-Rector for International Relations at the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, member of Transform4Europe - T4E: The European University for Knowledge Entrepreneurs (T4E)



Damir Boras, Rector of the University of Zagreb, European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC)

Professor Damir Boras is the Rector of the University of Zagreb since October 2014 (re-elected in February 2018). From 2009 until 2014, he was Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb. He is a leading researcher or research member in many projects related to the application and introduction of the information technology, high and elementary education, publishment and jurisdiction. He has led or participated in several professional projects for the application and introduction of IT in higher education, high school and elementary education, libraries, publishing and judiciary. In more than 140 published scientific and professional papers and scientific books and textbooks, he deals with computer processing of the Croatian language, e-education, organization and structuring of knowledge, and computer lexicography and encyclopaedia



Eric TSCHIRHART, Full Professor of psychology, Special advisor to the rector for UNIVERSEH, University of Luxembourg, member of the European Space University of Earth and Humanity (UNIVERSEH)

Eric Tschirhart is full professor of physiology and special advisor to the rector for 'UNIVERSEH|European University' at the University of Luxembourg. Eric Tschirhart has a Master in Physiology, a PhD in Pharmacology and a MBA. Having worked in the pharmaceutical industry and public research institutions, he joined the University of Luxembourg in 2002, participated to Life Sciences expansion in Luxembourg, before taking serial managerial positions in research, finance & administration, and academic organization as vice-president. He teaches physiology in Medical and Life Sciences programs and has been supervising PhD candidates recurrently. Professor Eric Tschirhart has more than 50 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals in physiology, pharmacology, drug development and medicinal chemistry. Lastly, he focused his activity on managing IP, valorization, licensing contract, pre-seed funding and spin-offs prospects within the elaboration of a seed fund to support IP-driven spin-offs expansion from the university. Now, he is in charge of the implementation and development of UNIVERSEH at the University of Luxembourg.