

UNICA EduLAB & CIVIS webinar: New European curricula for the new European degrees. From bulk learning to modularisation

Promoted by the University of Bucharest

9 December 2021, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm CET

Biographies and abstracts of the speakers

Welcome Address

LUCIANO SASO | President, UNICA Network



Prof. Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) is author of more than 300 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (H-index Google Scholar 53, Scopus 43). 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 the European University Networks UNICA and CIVIS at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 20 years, he participated in several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences.

Prof. Saso assumed the role of Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015). In October 2015, he was elected President for a first term (2016-2019) and he was re-elected President for a second term (2020-2023) in 2019.

ROMIȚĂ IUCU, UNICA EduLAB Coordinator, President of the Board of Trustees, University of Bucharest



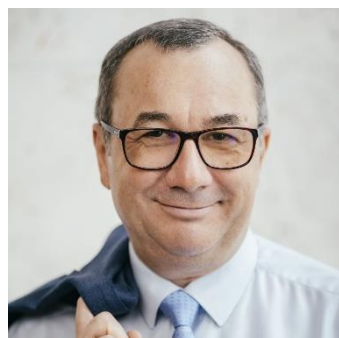
Professor Romita IUCU is the President of the Board of Trustees, of the renowned higher education institution in Romania's Capital City, the University of Bucharest and professor at the Department of Educational Sciences. He has been appointed as Steering Committee Member of the EUA – European University Association, Teaching and Learning Initiative. Professor Iucu held several professional and management positions (former Acting Rector of the University of Bucharest 2016-2017, Vice-

Rector for Academical Affairs, for more than 16 years) on designing, managing and validating higher education and adult education policies, at international and national level. He was, since 2010 to 2015, the ENTEP Coordinator (European Network on Teacher Education Policies) and between 2016-2017 country representative in The BFUG - Bologna Follow-up Group. In the field of Policy analysis and development: Vice-President National Council for Educational Reform, EU - member of Cluster Teachers and trainers, EU - member of the Expert Group on Improving the Education of teachers and trainers, in 2015-2016, he was the Coordinator of QUALITAS - Barometer of Higher Education (National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), MofE Ministry of Education and Research (deputy general director, designed and implemented the National Strategy for Adult Education), Consultant for Teacher Training Policies, National Socrates Agency / EURIDYCE – consultant for lifelong learning policies and country expert in the Modernization of Higher Education in Europe -Academic Staff - 2017, UNICEF - Coordinator for National Project – Strategy for Preschool Teacher Training, World Bank expert for rural Romanian Education. Since 2011 he has been inducted as a member of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. He was working for ECORYS as country expert dealing with NRP, Themes of the Ad-Hoc requests, country updates.

KEYNOTE SPEECH :

“European” teaching and learning? Institutional responsibility between pedagogy and politics

LIVIU MATEI, Provost, Central European University (CEU)



Liviu Matei is Provost of Central European University and a Professor of Higher Education Policy. From March 2022 he will become Head of the School of Education, Communication and Society at King's College London. He taught at universities in Europe and the U.S., consulted extensively in the area of higher education policy and conducted applied policy research projects for the World Bank, UNESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and other international organizations (intergovernmental and non-governmental), national authorities and universities from Europe and Asia. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Central Asia and serves on the editorial boards of the Internationalisation of Higher Education Journal and the European Journal of Higher Education. He studied philosophy and psychology at Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj, and Sociology of Higher Education at Bucharest University, Romania. He received his PhD from the latter. He benefited from fellowships at the Institut Supérieur de Formation Sociale et de Communication, Bruxelles, The New School for Social Research, Université Paris X Nanterre, Université de Savoie, the Salzburg Seminar and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme. His primary areas of expertise include university governance, funding, internationalization of higher education, academic freedom and university autonomy, quality assurance. He is the founder of the Global Observatory on Academic Freedom.

Abstract

The European Universities Initiative is one of the most daring endeavors in higher education in recent times. It is also a surprising one, both in its objectives and particular nature. It aims to give significant new impetus to the Europeanisation of higher education (or, rather, of higher education in the European Union), at a time when the overall European project is stalled. Moreover, the focus is explicitly on education, on teaching and learning, rather than research, which the EU has historically favored.

Is this a “technical” higher education policy project or a political initiative? Or both? Rather than “just following”, is it important to clarify what are the rationales here and how will this project impact higher education in the EU? The European Universities Initiative is a top-down initiative. In order to achieve ambitious trans-national political objectives it proposes a new institutional model in higher education (non-national, European universities), and also new approaches to curriculum, pedagogy and teaching and learning. Is this a path to a new, “European” model in teaching and learning? Given the transnational, top-down and political dimension of the project, how should individual institutions position themselves? How should they think about their own institutional responsibilities, between inner educational and pedagogic desiderata and outside political guidance, if not pressure?

BREAK-OUT ROOMS

Break-out room 1: *Barriers in building a micro-credentials philosophy curricula in higher education: modularisation of learning, certification & recognition, learning mobility*

Facilitated by JANIKA LEOSTE, Business Collaboration and Innovation Chief Specialist and Visiting Researcher in Educational Robotics, School of Educational Sciences, Tallinn University



Dr Janika Leoste, is the chief specialist in entrepreneurial cooperation and innovation at the School of Educational Sciences and a researcher in educational robotics in Tallinn University. Janika’s research focuses on the sustainability of technology-enriched educational innovations and the didactics of STEAM learning at all school levels, including learning integrated with robots in pre-primary education.

Break-out room 2: *From joint/multiple degrees to European Diplomas: what can be done and what should we change?*

Facilitated by ANDRIUS UZDANAVICIUS, Head of Study office, Vilnius University



Andrius Uždanavičius is Head of Studies' Quality and Development Office in Vilnius University, Chair of European Universities alliance ARQUS action line Student-Centered Frameworks for Quality Learning board. He is responsible for creating and implementing teaching evaluation and continuous professional development system at Vilnius university of as well as internal quality enhancement processes and internationalisation of studies.

As a coordinator of one of the action lines in European University Alliance Andrius is responsible for creating common measures for CPD, creating joint programmes, innovative curricula, mobility possibilities for faculty and students, enhancement in collaboration between academic staff.

Break-out room 3 : *European Universities Alliances as piloting arenas for the future of European degrees*

Facilitated by LUCIA VENNARINI, Division Director of Academic Affairs, University of Tübingen



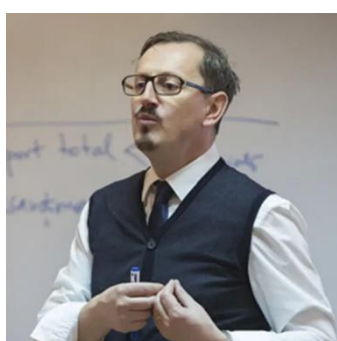
Lucia Vennarini is Director of the Academic Affairs Department at Tübingen University. She joined Tübingen University in October 2008 in order to establish a new department: building special teams with particular expertise in various fields, facilitating collaboration within the university and supporting and furthering the university's strategic development in teaching and learning.

She previously worked at RWTH Aachen University: first as project manager at its Center of Teacher Training, later as Head of the Division Teaching and Learning. She held various positions at Essen University: in the English Department, the International Office and with the Vice-President for Quality Assurance.

Moderated by ROMIȚĂ IUCU, UNICA EduLAB Coordinator, President of the Board of Trustees, University of Bucharest

See above.

LUCIAN CIOLAN, Vice-Rector for Development Projects, Lifelong Learning and Educational Infrastructure, University of Bucharest



Lucian Ciolan, PhD, is professor of Educational Policy & Research at University of Bucharest (Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences), where he is also serving as Vice-Rector for Development Projects and Lifelong Learning. His main academic fields of interest include (but are not limited to): influencing decision-making through public / educational policy, cognitive neurosciences applied in behavioral change, learning research and teacher education.

Starting with 2014, Lucian became member of the EERA Council, representing Romania and now he is president of ARCE – Romanian Educational Research Association.

Alongside his academic activity, Lucian was extensively involved in consultancy and capacity building programs in Europe and beyond, mainly focused on public policy and educational reforms. In this capacity, he is member of a professional network of trainers and consultants on policy change called International Centre for Policy Advocacy, based in Berlin.

NADIA FERNÁNDEZ DE PINEDO, Senior Lecturer, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid



Nadia Fernández-de-Pinedo is Associate Professor at the Department of Economic Analysis: Economic Theory and Economic History at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (SPAIN).

She holds a PhD from the University of País Vasco (SPAIN) and a Post-doctoral Research at Warwick University (UK) in the department of Comparative American Studies. Nadia is member of the IBCgroup, in charge of the collaboration agreement

between the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) and the UAM (2000-2020). Her teaching experience includes Issues and Concepts in European and World Economic History and Globalization in Historical Perspective. She is the co-founder of the 'Programa Mentor: Next Learning' and one of the designers and coordinators of the 'Teacher Mentoring Expert Program' (TEMU) that is part of the UAM teacher training program. She has also participated in a number of multi-partner projects concerning Latin America and the transfer of technology, trade and material culture (GECCEM project). Currently Nadia is the Rector's delegate for CIVIS at UAM.

JUSTYNA GODLEWSKA-SZYRKO, Rector's Deputy for Quality of Teaching and Learning, University of Warsaw



Justyna Godlewska-Szyrkowa, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw.

She is a Rector's Deputy for Quality of Education and the deputy chair of The University Teaching and Learning Council. Previously, she served as Deputy Dean for Student Affairs at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies.

Her research interests focus on migration policy, education policy, education and the labour market, and education in the digital age.