



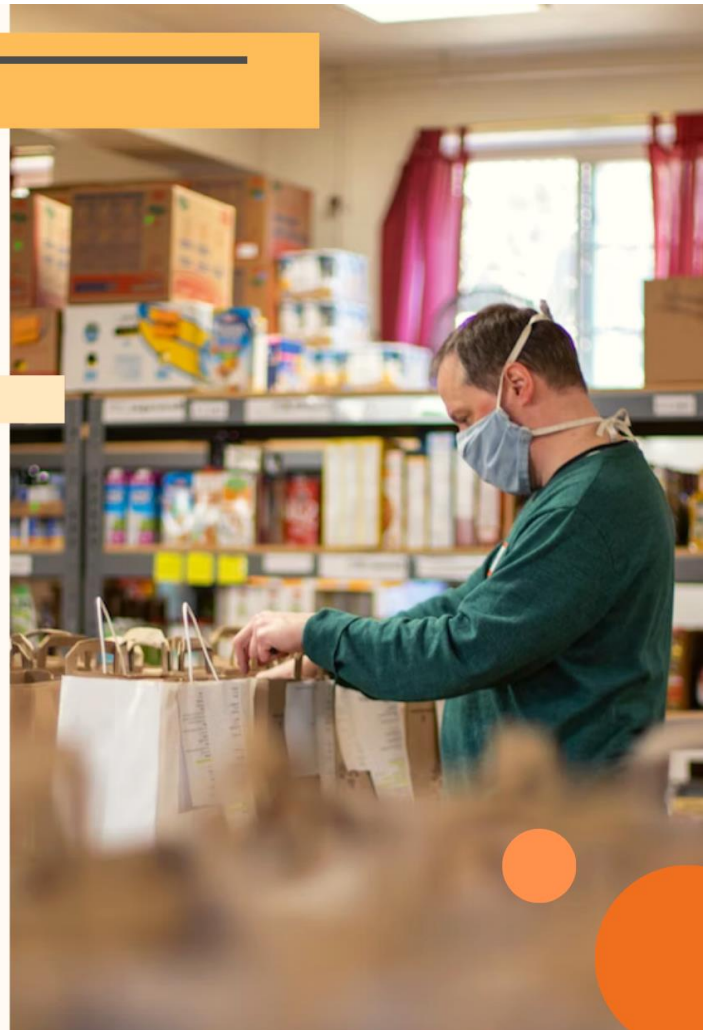
reaching out

Universities &
Societal Challenges
in the city
by UNICA & the City

Online Workshop Series - OWS #1
Engaging with and supporting Migrants,
Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

28 March 2023

10h30 am - 12h00 pm CET



More information and registration form available at:

<http://www.unica-network.eu/event/reaching-out-universities-coping-with-societal-challenges-28-march-2023/>

Please note that participation is free, but **registration is required**.

Registered participants will receive **an automatic notification**
with **the link to join** the online workshop



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

Online Workshop Series

“**Reaching Out: Universities & Societal Challenges in the City**” by *UNICA & the City*

First Online Workshop

“Universities **reaching out to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees**”

28th of March 2023 | 10:30-12:00 CET

Concept Note

Socially and economically marginalized groups are confronted manifold challenges – from access to education and other resources to active social and cultural participation. The Workshop Series intent to explore good practices of universities in contributing to the solution of these challenges.

At the end of each workshop and the overall series, the goal is to learn lessons from each other as to what works well and what does not work.

Programme

10:30 – 10:40	Welcome words and introduction to the webinar series by the UNICA & the City WG Coordinator and Moderator Dr. Tobias Reckling
10:40 – 10:50	Opening Remarks , by Juan Rayón González - President, Erasmus Student Network
10:50 – 11:20 (10' per speaker)	Case Studies by UNICA Member Universities UNI(di)VERSITY – Higher Education Institutions acting as “Agents of Change” , by Mara Matta - Associate Professor of South Asian Studies, Sapienza University of Rome Are Universities doing enough to respond to certain societal challenges? , by Joe Carthy - Director UCD in the Community, University College Dublin Bridging Teacher Shortage and Internationally Trained Teachers’ Readiness to Join the Workforce – Questioning Qualifications, Navigating Demands, and Taking Detours , by Michelle Proyer - Associate Professor of Inclusive Education, University of Vienna
11:20 – 11:55	Q&A and Panel Discussion moderated by Dr. Tobias Reckling
11:55 – 12:00	Wrap-up and Closing

Biographies of Speakers and Abstracts

 Tobias Reckling | UNICA & the City WG Coordinator | Moderator



Tobias Reckling is Team Manager for Knowledge Exchange, Technology Transfer & National Funding at the University of Vienna. The team develops and implements support measures to promote knowledge exchange with industry and society, including collaborations with stakeholders such as the City of Vienna.

In addition, Tobias coordinates the Knowledge Exchange Centre East, a regional consortium for the promotion of knowledge valorisation activities, consisting of nine universities and four universities of applied sciences.

 Juan Rayón González | President of the Erasmus Student Network | Speaker



Juan comes from the region of Asturias in northern Spain. He has a bachelor's in law from the University of Oviedo and is currently finishing two MAs in International Law and European Studies. Juan did his Erasmus mobility in Istanbul and also participated in the European Solidarity Corps in Padova, Italy, where he worked for the Municipality's youth office. He joined ESN in 2016, when he moved to Granada after his Erasmus. He has been president of ESN Spain and

Liaison Officer for Inclusive mobility.

As president, he is responsible for the general coordination of the organisation, for external relations, policy, and advocacy. His main priorities include and fostering civic engagement and participation of young people through Erasmus.

Universities interacting meaningfully with society: The Council of the European Union recognizes the increasing importance of the social dimension of education when it identifies “the promotion of equity, social cohesion and active citizenship as one of its four strategic objectives” in this sector. The speaker will be addressing the need for Higher Education Institutions to consider their social relevance in contemporary complex societies, focusing mainly on the process and value for Universities in establishing relevant and meaningful interactions with society.

 **Michelle Proyer | Associate Professor, University of Vienna | Speaker**



Michelle Proyer is Associate Professor of Inclusive Education at the Centre for Teacher Education/Department of Education at the University of Vienna. Her research and teaching focuses on inclusive education (in teacher education), diversity in schools and disability at the intersection of gender/diversity, culture and human rights development, as well as participatory approaches to research in inclusive pedagogy.

Bridging Teacher Shortage and Internationally Trained Teachers' Readiness to Join the Workforce – Questioning Qualifications, Navigating Demands, and Taking Detours: This case study covers participant-oriented development and implementation of a certification measure for internationally educated teachers who had to flee war and crises in Syria, Iran, Iraq and other regions. Despite the successful employment rates of 4 cycles of the program and more than two thirds of over 90 Alumni in the education system, a more in-depth analyses points to institutional restrictions and challenges.

 **Joe Carthy | Director of UCD in the Community, University College Dublin | Speaker**



Professor Joe Carthy holds a BSc and PhD in Computer Science and a Graduate Diploma in University Teaching and Learning from UCD. He has been a UCD academic for over 30 years. Professor Carthy has a strong record in winning funding for research activities and together with colleagues has been awarded more than 5.4 million Euro for research projects. Professor Carthy is Director of UCD in the Community, but also founding Director of the UCD Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation which has established strong links with international law enforcement agencies and international organisations such as Europol, Interpol and the UNODC.

Are Universities doing enough to respond to certain societal challenges?: It is generally accepted that the key role of universities revolves around student education, research and the preservation of knowledge. But universities are relatively well funded and well-resourced organisations. We exist in a world where humanitarian crises are no longer observed at a distance but touch upon every city in Europe. In 10 or 20 years' time, will we be able to look back and say, as universities, that we rose to these challenges, that we marshalled our resources and that we played our part to alleviate human suffering?

By resources we include our student cohorts, our staff cohorts, our buildings (which mainly lie idle in the evenings) as well as some small part of our budget. Much can be done with relatively small amounts of money by tapping into the goodwill of our university communities to provide voluntary services and access to spaces to provide these services. The speaker will share some ideas from UCD and beyond to suggest some actions that any university could adopt.



Mara Matta is Associate Professor of South Asian Studies at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza', where she is also the President of the BA Degree in 'Global Humanities' and the Sapienza coordinator of the 'Global History Lab' Program led by Princeton University in collaboration with the Central European University (Vienna). She was awarded a PhD in South and East Asian Studies by the University of Naples 'L'Orientale' and has worked for almost twenty years with filmmakers and playwrights in Asia and among South Asian diasporas in Europe.

She has conducted research in China, Tibet, Nepal, Bangladesh, and India, specifically working on cultural and cinematic productions involving people stranded along and across borders in South Asia. In Italy, she has been involved with various projects that are linked with refugees and migrants' narratives and the cultural and artistic trajectories of displaced people in Asia and Europe. She is a long-term member of the Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema ([NETPAC](#)) and of the Archive of Migrant Memories ([AMM](#)). Presently, she is working with indigenous filmmakers and artists in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, Northeast India, and the Tibetan, Afghani and Bangladeshi diasporas in Europe.

UNI(di)VERSITY – Higher Education Institutions acting as “Agents of Change”: **UNI(di)VERSITY** builds upon the results of the ***inHERE project*** focused on supporting EU HEIs' efforts to welcome refugee students and staff. The project focused on increasing knowledge, inspiring commitment, sensitising, and fostering the empowerment of European HEIs leaders, managers and staff from different structures (governance bodies, third mission office, international relations office, student services, faculty and research department leaders) in relation to migration issues, to act as agents of change in their own institutions and academic community, and throughout Europe.