Sharing, learning, adding value

UNICA Activity Report

Overview 2015-2023
Highlights of 2022/23
Coming up in 2023/24

Prof. Luciano Saso
UNICA President

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1- Overview 2015-2023

1.1- Expanding Collaboration

- Increase of member universities

UNICA members

European Capitals with UNICA members
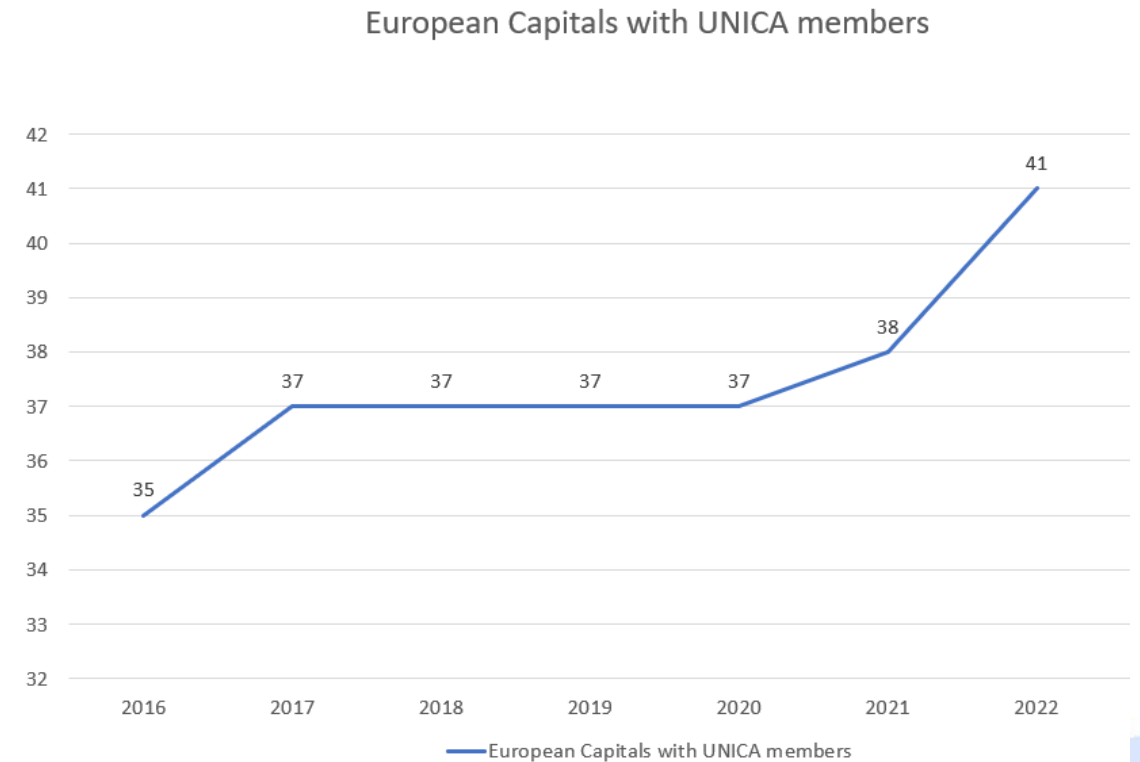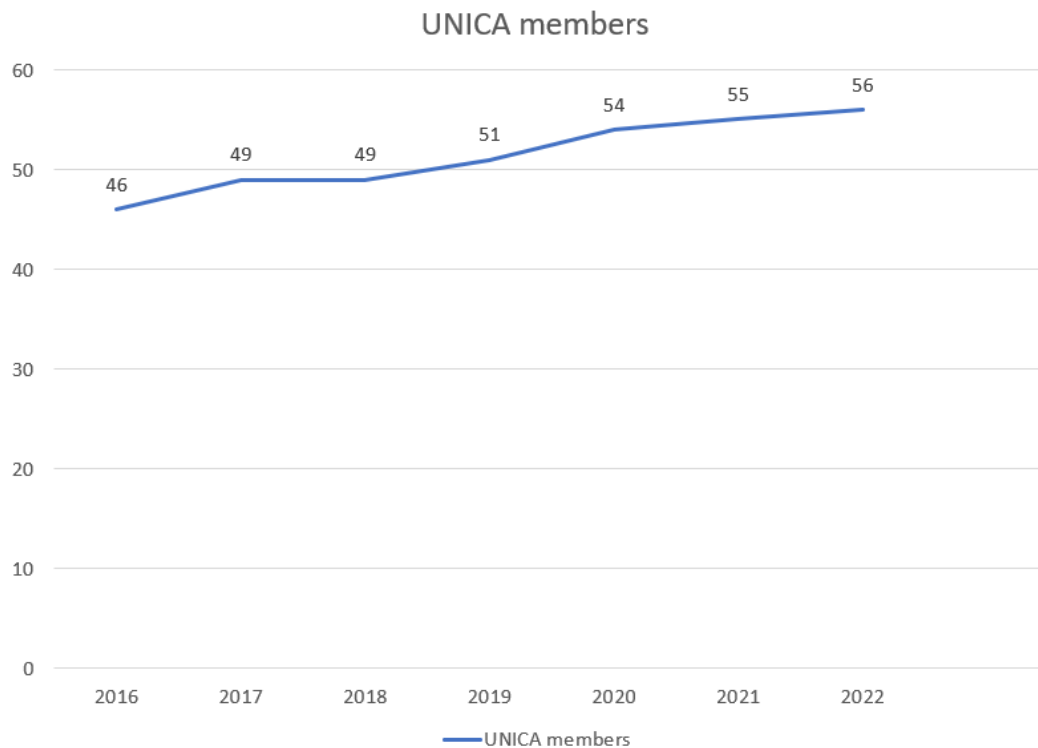
1- Overview 2015-2023

1.1- Expanding Collaboration

- ### Collaboration beyond Europe

  📌 New Zealand

  📌 China

  📌 International Networks

  📌 Uzbekistan

  📌 Brazil

  📌 Other regions

- ### Increased collaboration with Eastern Europe

  New countries from Eastern Europe on the « UNICA map »

  www.unica-network.eu
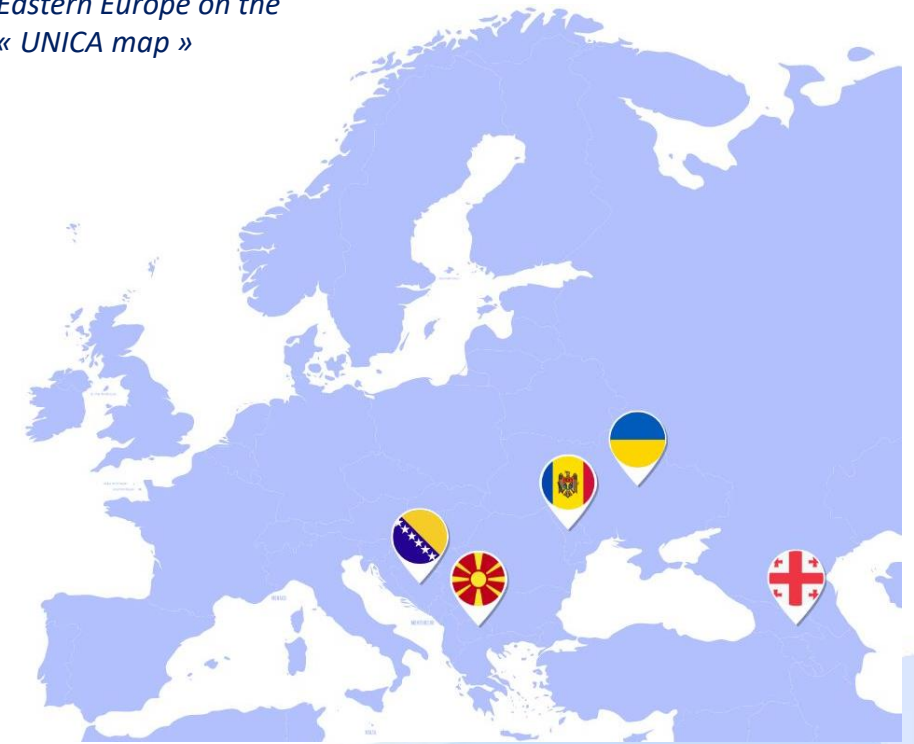
1.2 - Leading in crisis
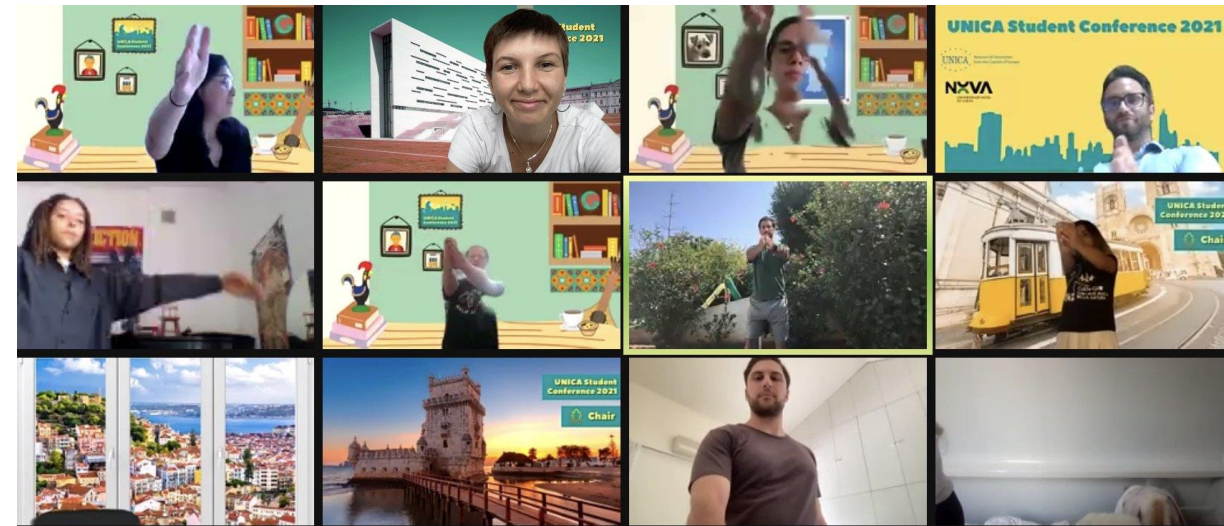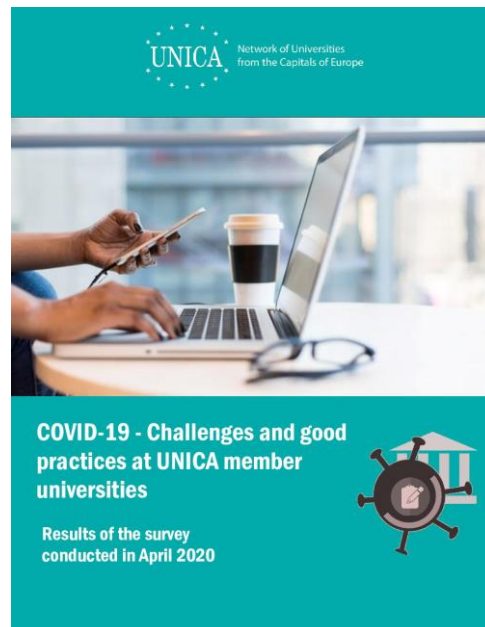
- Managing a network during a pandemic

Rapid transition to digital

2020 21	2021 29

Webinars/ e-meetings
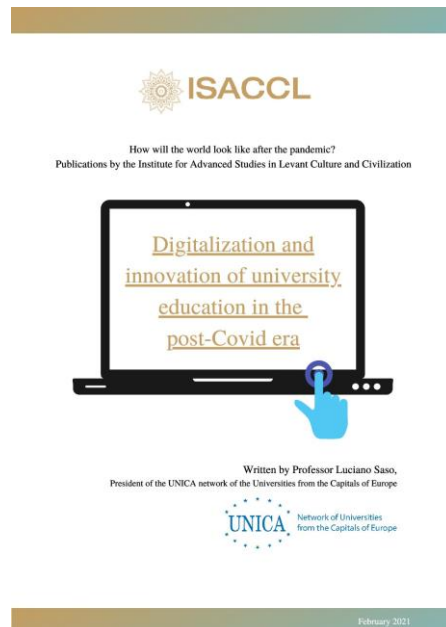
Exercising online during the UNICA Student Conference 2021
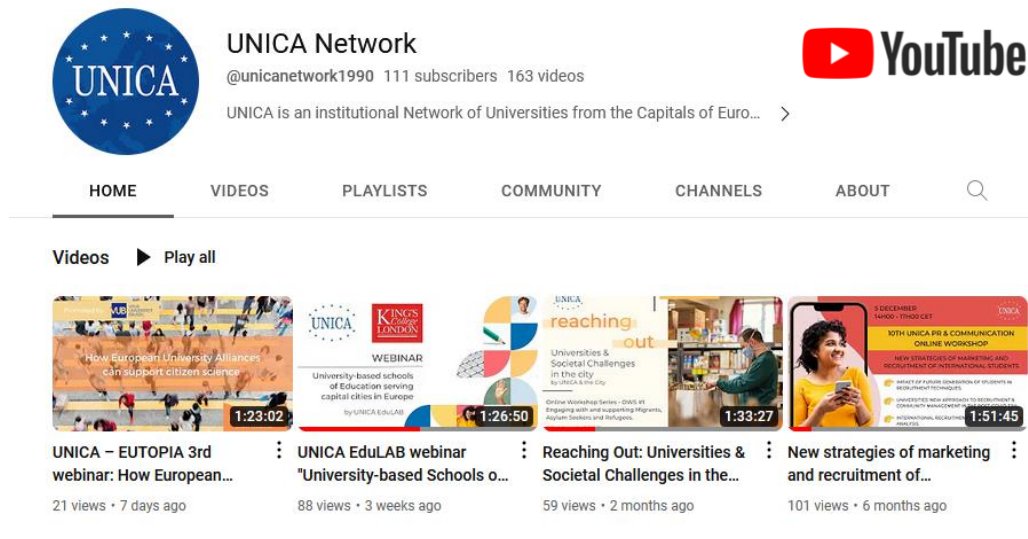
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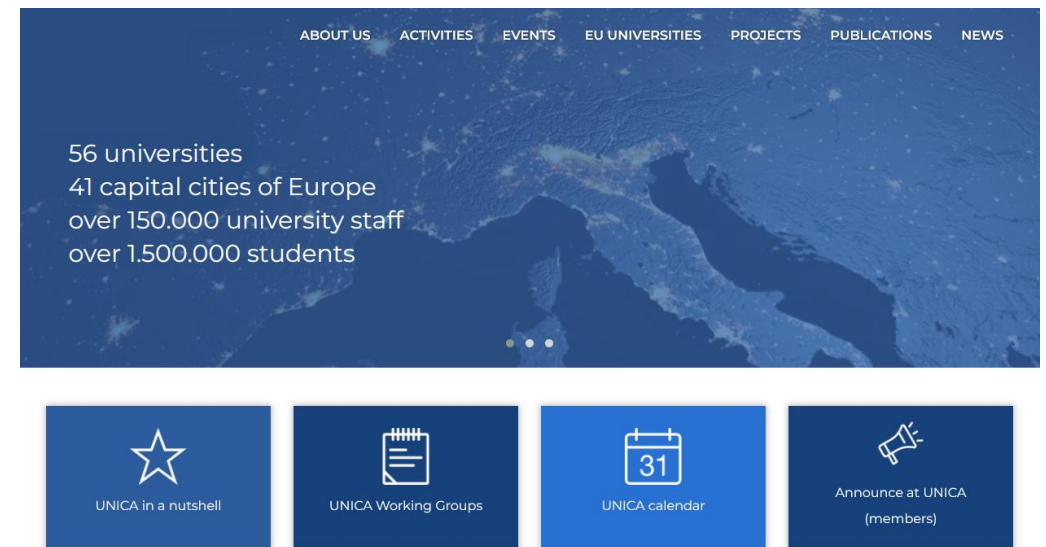*1.2 - Leading in crisis*

- Managing a network during a pandemic

Recordings of activities

New website

www.unica-network.eu

1.2 - Leading in crisis

- ## Uphold academic and human values

Commitments, Reactions & Education

- Signature of the Prague Declaration I & II
- Reaction to situations of crisis, such as Brexit and the War in Ukraine
- Promotion of initiatives to support the values
- Participation in external events focused on the values
- Organisation of events focused on the values

Projects
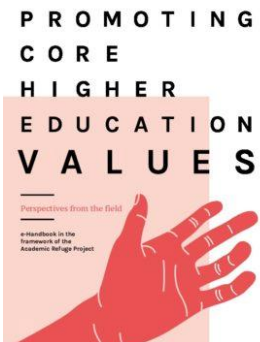
New mission and vision

" OUR MISSION IS TO BE A **DRIVING FORCE** IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREAS AND **EMPOWER OUR MEMBER UNIVERSITIES** TO UNLOCK THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, PUTTING KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION AT THE **SERVICE OF THE NEEDS** OF OUR SOCIETIES AND OF THE COMING GENERATIONS."

UNICA MISSION & VISION 2022

1.2 - Leading in crisis

- Unlock universities potential to meet the SDGs

Commitments

Projects

Awareness and Education for the SDGs
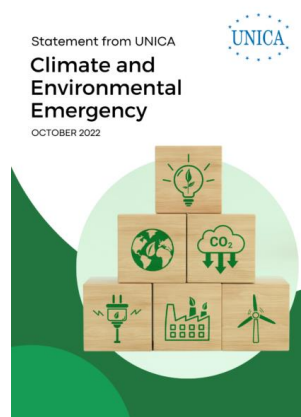
Learning of university renovation plans at the University of Sarajevo during a UNICA Green & SDGs + UNICA & the City event in 2023

- Organisation of events focused on the SDGs
- Promotion of dialogue for exchange of good practices
- Engagement with external actors in partners
- Focus on the opportunities & challenges of universities in Capital cities and urban challenges

1.3- Positioning the Network in a new European Education Area

- ## Preparing the universities of the future

European University Alliances

40 out of 56 members in Alliances

21 out of 44 alliances have one member (at least)
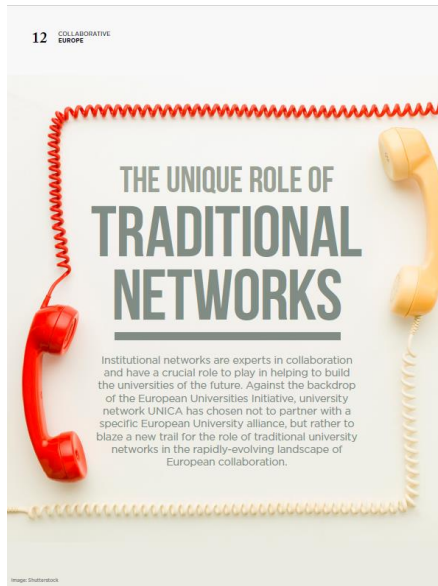
12 COLLABORATIVE EUROPE

THE UNIQUE ROLE OF
TRADITIONAL NETWORKS

Institutional networks are experts in collaboration and have a crucial role to play in helping to build the universities of the future. Against the backdrop of the European Universities Initiative, university network UNICA has chosen not to partner with a specific European University alliance, but rather to blaze a new trail for the role of traditional university networks in the rapidly-evolving landscape of European collaboration.

Image: Shutterstock

Projects

Exploring new educational approaches

18th UNICA EduLAB meeting:
Innovation in Teaching and Employability

University of Lausanne, 30 November-1 December 2017

UNICA EduLAB workshop
"Innovative pedagogies and virtual mobility in the (post) COVID-19 era"

Friday, 4 December 2020
| 9:30-12:00 CET

- Multidisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity

- European Degrees

- Flexible curricula, MOOC, modularisation, BIPs, microcredentials

- Blended learning and digital mobility

- Education and Artificial Intelligence

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1.3- Positioning the Network in a new European Education Area

- **Enganging in the development of ERA and EHEA**

The European Research Area

- Engaging with partners to push for stronger EU research policies
- Statements on UNICA's position on research issues
- Organisation of events for liasion officers and university leadership
- Involvement in large scale initiatives for sucessful implementation of ERA

The European Higher Education Area

- Engaging with partners to build an inclusive EHEA
- Monitoring of the digitalisation process among UNICA universities
- Organisation of events for liasion officers and university leadership

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1.4- Partnerships

2- Highlights of 2022/23

2.1- The year in numbers

11 UNICA events	4 (Joint) statements/ publications
3 external events (UNICA as speaker)	+ 1 EU funded project
Over 1.000 participants	New mission & vision

2- Highlights of 2022/23

2.2- Overview of focal points

The Future of Teaching & Learning

- European University Alliances: establishing European Degrees

- Future universities for students of the future

- Artificial Intelligence

Sustainable Societies

- Citizen Science

- Building inclusive and sustainable campus

- Universities in action to tackle societal challenges

Prof. Liviu Matei speaks at an EduLAB webinar on the role of Education based schools in supporting capital cities in early May 2023

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2- Highlights of 2022/23

2.2- Overview of focal points

The Future of Internationalisation and Mobility

- European University Alliances: a new paradigm of internationalisation in Europe

- Digitalisation of Erasmus+

- Current challenges in mobility programmes: housing, green mobility, well being

Research and Develement

- Implementing the European Research Area (ERA

- Increase stakeholders' voice in the governance of the ERA

- Open Science

2- Highlights of 2022/23

2.3- External Relations

Expert groups and collaborations

- EWP University and Students Forum

- Sci4Net0

- Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)

Speakers during the Sci4Net0 joint event in 2022

Projects

- Open Pass for Climate (OP4C)

- Mindfulness Parctices for Students in Society (MP4s)

- CALOHEE II + CALOHEx – Measuring and Comparing Achievements of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Europe

Participants during a training of the MP4s project, in 2022

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2.4- Governance

Thank you to members of the Steering Commitee who are finishing their mandate!

Anastas GERDJIKOV
Sofia University
St. Kliment Ohridski

Sorin COSTREIE
University of Bucharest

Dimitrios KARADIMAS
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Luca VIGANÒ
King's College London

Elena AVGOUSTIDOU-KYRIACOU
University of Cyprus
(IRO Observer)

Thank you also to previous members:
- Carmela Cales Bourdet (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
- Serge Jaumain (Université libre de Bruxelles)
- Hanna Snellman (University of Helsinki)
- Minna Koutaniemi (University of Helsinki)

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2.4- Governance

Thank you to the coordinators of the Working Groups 2021-2023!

IRO
Elena AVGOUSTIDOU-KYRIACOU,
University of Cyprus

EDULAB
Romita IUCU
University of Bucharest

Green & SDGs
Matthew LASWON
University of Edinburgh

Research
Maryam EDALAT
Stockholm University

Scholarly Communication
Raúl AGUILERA
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Scholarly Communication
Andreas DEGKWITZ
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

UNICA & the City
Tobias RECKLING
University of Vienna

UNICA & the City
Katarzyna Zofia WOJNAR
University of Warsaw

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3- Coming up

2.4- New governance

New Steering Committee members

Secretary General

Elected coordinators of the UNICA Working Groups for 2023-2025

IRO	**Green & SDGs**	**Scholarly Communication**	**PR & Communication**	**UNICA & the City**	**EDULAB**	**Research**
Elena AVGOUSTIDOU-KYRIACOU, University of Cyprus	Matthew LASWON University of Edinburgh	Raúl Aguilera Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	Aswin Lutchanah University of Luxembourg	Joe Carthy University College Dublin	*TBC*	*TBC*

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3- Coming up

2.4- UNICA Days

Visibility   **Advocacy**   **Community building**   **Impact**

28 FEB – 1 MAR 2024

UNICA's largest -scale event in Brussels yet!
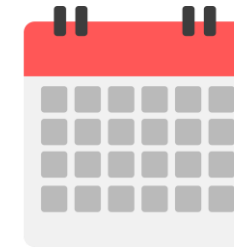
For Rectors:

- high level meetings

- peer meetings

- meetings with thee steering commitee

For Working Groups:

- cross meetings between groups

- meetings with international actors

Joint activities

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Thank you!