



# UNICA Research meeting

## Brussels, 2-3 December 2024

### Draft Agenda

(as of 21 October 2024)

#### Day 1 - Monday, 2 December 2024

**Venue:** Usquare Brussels, Av. de la Couronne 227, 1050 Ixelles, Brussels

13:00-14:00	Registration of participants & Sandwich lunch
14:00-14:15	<p><b>Welcome words</b></p> <p>By <b>Pieter BALLON</b>, Vice Rector Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel &amp; Coordinator of UNICA Research and <b>Luciano SASO</b>, UNICA Secretary General</p>
14:15-14:30	<b>Tour de table</b>
14:30-15:00	<p><b>Introduction, proposed objectives and Work Plan for UNICA Research</b></p> <p>By <b>Pieter BALLON</b>, Vice Rector Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel &amp; Coordinator of UNICA Research</p>
15:00-16:30	<p><b>Session 1 - Contributing to policy shaping: the European Research Area and the future of the European University alliances from a research viewpoint</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Pieter Ballon</b>, Vice Rector Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel &amp; Coordinator of UNICA Research</p> <p><b>Keynote speech</b></p> <p>By <b>Stephane BERGHMANS</b>, Director of Research &amp; Innovation, European University Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ERA actions 2025-2027</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated discussion</b></p>
16:30-17:30	<b>Guided tour of <a href="https://www.usquare.brussels">Usquare.brussels</a></b> with <b>Benjamin WAYENS</b> , Responsible for the ULB-VUB OpenLab@Usquare
20:00	<b>Networking dinner</b> (venue tbc)



## Day 2 - Tuesday, 3 December

**Venue:** University Foundation, rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels | Room Emile Francqui

8:30-9:00	Registration of participants & Welcome Coffee
9:00-10:30	<p><b>Session 2 - Research infrastructure: sharing good practices, considering collaboration and improving research infrastructure access</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Keynote speech</b></p> <p>By <b>Koen JONKERS</b>, Head of Unit for Scientific Development Programmes at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre</p> <p><b>Moderated discussion</b></p>
10:30-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00-12:30	<p><b>Session 3 - Tackling urban challenges with European R&amp;I funding</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> TBC</p> <p><b>Keynote speech TBC</b></p> <p><b>Moderated discussion</b></p>
12:30-13:00	<b>Wrap up: conclusions and action points from the meeting</b>
13:00-14:00	<b>Group picture &amp; Farewell lunch</b>

### Target groups

Vice-Rectors Research, Heads of Research Offices, Senior EU Research Liaison Officers, LEARs & Research Administrators, from UNICA member universities

### Registration deadline

Participation is free, but registration is mandatory. Please confirm your attendance by filling out the registration form available at the [event webpage](#) **no later than 18 November 2024**.

### Information and contact

@ For any doubts or questions, please contact the UNICA Secretariat: [office@unica-network.eu](mailto:office@unica-network.eu)

🌐 Regular updates available at the event webpage: <https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-research-meeting-brussels-2024/>.

