

UNICA WORKING GROUP RESEARCH

PROPOSAL FROM VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL



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Vice-Chancellor Research
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VUB OFFERS TO REVIVE UNICA RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

- VUB, as a research university and one of the small/mid-sized European R&I leaders, is interested and suitable for reviving/leading this group
- VUB obtained 54 mio € in EU funding (fundamental + applied research) (based on the European Education Register data 2022)
- This is exceptionally high for a mid-sized university
 - #20 of all universities involved in EU programs
 - #2 of comparable universities in size
 - #1 of comparable universities with full curriculum



Prof Dr Pieter Ballon is vice-rector Research of VUB, and is director of imec-SMIT, a large research group on digital platforms

WHAT IS UNICA RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

**A think tank and sandpit
for Vice-Rectors Research
and EU Research Liaison
Officers to better position
UNICA members on the
European Research &
Innovation landscape**

UNICA RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

THREE-PRONGED APPROACH

Unique perspective
of research universities
based in Capitals of
Europe

- Near EU and national decision bodies
- Diverse & sustainable urban universities
- The backbone of European R&I

Needs and methods
**less covered by other
EU R&I networks**

- Dialogue between vice rectors R&I and European liaison officers
- European Parliament & Directorates
- Connected R&I infrastructures

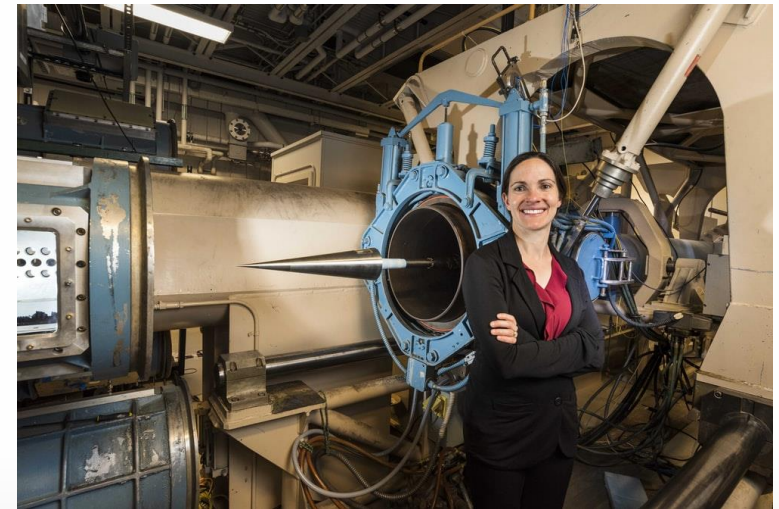
**Increase exchange
and collaboration** of
UNICA's members

- Academic R&I partnerships (eg. IAS network)
- Professional development for research managers
- Best practice exchange and scale-up

SUGGESTED 2024-2025 ACTIVITIES

IN LINE WITH UNICA STRATEGIC PLAN

- Determining the objectives and work plan for the Research Working Group
- Preparing for EU policy on European university alliances
- Equality and inclusiveness: integrating the urbanity and diversity dimension in research
- Discussing lean forms of academic exchange & collaboration to form the backbone of European R&I
- Providing peer-to-peer support and continuing professional development for research managers



UNICA RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

In practice

- **Chair: VUB vice rector research prof. Pieter Ballon**
- **Co-chair(s): tbd in WG**
- **For all UNICA vice rectors research & European liaison officers**
- **Yearly 1-2 UNICA general events and 2-3 workshops for members**
- **Support from UNICA secretariat (contacts, email reflector, communication, organisation, budgets...)**
- **Preliminary evaluation after 1 year**

