



UNICA IRO MEETING 2024

Bucharest, Wednesday, 13 November – Friday, 15 November 2024

“Building the Ideal International Relations Office: Balancing between Challenges and Tangible Results in a Dynamic Environment”

Hosted by Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE)

Address: Piața Romană, 6, Bucharest

PROGRAMME

Day 0 | Wednesday, 13 November

18:30-20:00	Welcome Cocktail Venue: REPER Restaurant, 176, Calea Victoriei, First district, Bucharest
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Overall Chair: Elena AVGOUSTIDOU-KYRIACOU, Acting Director of the International Relations Service, University of Cyprus and Coordinator of the UNICA IRO Group

Day 1 | Thursday, 14 November

REFLECTING ON THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Welcome and introduction	
Venue: Virgil Madgearu Room – 6, Piata Romana, ground floor	
8:30-9:00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
9:00-9:15	Welcome addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constantin Marius PROFIROIU, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Bucharest University of Economic Studies• Elena AVGOUSTIDOU-KYRIACOU, Acting Director of the International Relations Service, University of Cyprus and Coordinator of the UNICA IRO Group• Luciano SASO, UNICA Secretary General
9:15 – 9:30	Introduction of Bucharest University of Economic Studies , by Liviu Adrian COTFAS , Director for International Relations, Bucharest University of Economic Studies
9:30-9:45	Tour de Table

<p>9:45 – 10:30</p>	<p>Lecture on the evolution of internationalisation in Higher Education, by Horia ONITA, Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Short biography</p> <p>Horia Onița has worked on higher education policies for the last 8 years. While currently the Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat, he previously served as the President of the European Students' Union. In his roles, he engaged with national and European higher education processes within various settings, representing students in the Bologna Process and towards the European Union institutions, Council of Europe, OECD and others. Within the EHEA, he co-chaired the working group on Social Dimension and the Drafting Committee for the Tirana Ministerial Communique while working on topics such as quality assurance and learning and teaching policies.</p> </div> <p>Abstract</p> <p>The lecture will present the evolution of the internationalisation of higher education in Europe, looking at developments in the European Higher Education Area and the positions expressed by European stakeholders. As a volatile concept heavily influenced by exogenous factors, the session will focus on the core elements of internationalisation that can be delineated over the years and what new trends are shaping the sector.</p> <p>Q&A (10')</p>
<p>Session 1: E+ briefing: what's new on Erasmus+?</p> <p>Venue: Virgil Madgearu Room - 6, Piata Romana, ground floor</p> <p>Chair: Cătălin PLOAE, IRO expert, Bucharest University of Economic Studies</p>	
<p>10:30-11:15</p>	<p>Updates from Erasmus+</p> <p>By Svava BERGLIND FINSEN (online), Policy Officer, Higher Education Unit, DG EAC, European Commission (30')</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Short biography</p> <p>Svava Finsen serves as a Policy Officer in the B.1 Higher Education unit at DG EAC within the European Commission. Her work centers on Key Action 131, overseeing the implementation of the Erasmus+ program for student and staff mobility in higher education. Additionally, she focuses on enhancing inclusion within the Erasmus+ program and contributes to the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education.</p> </div> <p>Q&A (15')</p>
<p>11:15-11:35</p>	<p>Break</p>

11:35 – 13:00	<p>Erasmus+ World café</p> <p>Presentation of case studies by UNICA members (10' each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) New forms of mobilities: a case study on BIPs and short mobilities, by Teodora Monica FULGA, Head of the Erasmus+ Office, Bucharest University of Economic Studies 2) Expanding the scope of the Erasmus Program: implementation challenges, by José CONCHINHA, Head of the International Mobility Unit, NOVA University Lisbon 3) Erasmus Without Paper, by Helena DERŠEK ŠTUHEC, Head of the Department, International Relations Office, University of Ljubljana <p>World Café (facilitated by the presenters of case studies)</p>
13:00 – 14:h00	<p>Group picture & Lunch</p>
<p>Session 2: Present-day challenges for International Relations Officers</p> <p>Venue: Virgil Madgearu Room - 6, Piata Romana, ground floor</p> <p>Chair: Luciano SASO, UNICA Secretary General</p>	
14:00 – 14:20	<p>Opening talk</p> <p>Conclusions from the 6th IAU Global Survey on Internationalization: Current Trends and Future Scenarios, by Giorgio MARINONI, Manager of Higher Education and Internationalization, International Association of Universities (IAU)</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;">  <div> <p>Short biography</p> <p>Giorgio Marinoni has been Manager of Higher Education and Internationalization at the International Association of Universities (IAU), since February 2015. He oversees Internationalization as one of the four strategic priorities of the Association. Among his responsibilities at IAU are research projects, the coordination of the ISAS (2.0) programme of advisory services for advancing internationalization, and external representation of the Association in internationalization. He has recently published the report of the 5th Global Survey on Internationalization of Higher Education. In addition, he is the coordinator of the Network of International Education Associations, NIEA.</p> <p>Before his current position at IAU, Giorgio Marinoni worked for UNICA and has been an active member of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) at local, national and international level, and served the ESN as its President in 2007 – 2008. He has ample experience in the coordination of multilateral international projects involving a variety of higher education stakeholders, including public and private higher education institutions (HEIs), networks of HEIs, student associations, national and regional governments.</p> </div> </div>

14:20 – 15:30	<p>Panel discussion and Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alina CRISTOVICI, Director of International Relations, University of Bucharest • Catherine CONVERY, Global Mobility Manager, University College Dublin • José LAFUENTE, Head of the International Relations Office, University of Alcalá • Raimonda MARKEVIČIENĖ, Head of the International Relations Office, University of Vilnius
15:30 – 15:45	Break
<p>Session 3: Trends Shaping the Future of Internationalisation</p> <p>Venue: Paul Bran Room - 6, Piata Romana, second floor</p>	
15:45 – 16:40	<p>Break-out groups</p> <p>This session aims to explore emerging trends and how they might shape international relations in higher education over the next 5-10 years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New geopolitical landscapes and their effects on partnerships 2. Virtual exchanges and hybrid models of mobility 3. Global challenges & serving society <p>Facilitators: Elena AVGOUSTIDOU-KYRIACOU (UCY), Cătălin PLOAE (ASE), Sintija MACULEVIČA (University of Latvia)</p>
16:40 – 17:00	Presentation of results
17:30 – 19:30	Optional social programme: visit to the Art Safari Museum
20:00	Dinner at Restaurant "Hanu' lui Manuc", 62-64 Franceza street, Bucharest

Day 2 | Friday, 15 November

AI WORKSHOP AND TRAINING & FLASH IRO MEETING

9:00 – 9:30	Welcome coffee
<p>Session 4: Workshop/training: AI in Mobility and Partnership Management</p> <p>Venue: Paul Bran Room - 6, Piata Romana, second floor</p>	
9:30 – 11:45	<p>Workshop/training</p> <p>An AI-focused workshop/training to explore how IROs can leverage AI tools to improve their work in mobility management, partnership development, and student engagement.</p> <p>Trainer: Ana STAMATESCU, Educational Technologies Consultant</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div> <p>Short biography</p> <p>Ana is the founder of Krontechies, an organization in which she decided to leverage her comprehensive expertise in digital education and passion for nature to build nature tech learning resources and programs for K-12 teachers, children and youth. As a freelance Senior Instructional</p> </div> </div>



	Designer, she helps various organizations develop learning materials and experiences on various topics such as computer science, AI, business, and nature conservation. In 2017, Ana became a Forbes Romania “30 under 30” Honoree, part of a new generation of young entrepreneurs and digital social changers. From 2018, she has joined the Bosch Alumni Network as a ChangemakerXchangeFellow. From 2022 she is an Aspen Young Leaders Fellow and Alumni. More information about in which projects Ana was and is involved here: @ana.stamatescu Linktree
10:45 – 11:00	Break
Wrap-Up Session: Designing the Ideal International Relations Office Venue: Paul Bran Room - 6, Piata Romana, second floor	
11:45 – 12:15	Wrap up with the Coordinator of the UNICA IRO Group
Flash IRO Meeting Venue: Paul Bran Room - 6, Piata Romana, second floor	
12:15 – 12:25	UNICA announcements
12:25 – 12:35	Open discussion on future UNICA IRO meetings and plans
12:35 – 12:50	Members’ corner: open announcements on anything they wish
12:50 – 13:00	UNICA IRO Meeting evaluation survey
13:00-14:00	Farewell lunch

Information and contact

Regular updates and registration form available at the event webpage:

<https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-iro-meeting-2024/>

For any questions, please contact the UNICA Secretariat:

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