



UNICA Research meeting

Hosted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, 2-3 December 2024



UNICA RESEARCH MEETING

Share knowledge, exchange ideas, and connect with fellow colleagues working in research strategy across the network

2-3 December 2024
Brussels



Information and contact

@ For any doubts or questions, please contact the UNICA Secretariat: office@unica-network.eu

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

Agenda

Day 1 - Monday, 2 December 2024

Venue: [Usquare Brussels](#), BriAS auditorium (AB building), Avenue de la Couronne 229, 1050 Ixelles

The venue can be reached via the inner courtyard of the Usquare site - Access 1 (229 avenue de la Couronne, then walk along the building to the AB auditorium). Please note that there is no direct access to the auditorium from inside the building.

13:00-14:00	Registration of participants & Sandwich lunch
14:00-14:15	<p>Welcome words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pieter BALLON, Vice Rector Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Coordinator of UNICA Research • Luciano SASO, UNICA Secretary General
14:15-14:30	Tour de table
14:30-15:00	<p>Introduction, proposed objectives and Work Plan for UNICA Research</p> <p>By Pieter BALLON, Vice Rector Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Coordinator of UNICA Research</p>
15:00-16:30	<p>Session 1 - Tackling urban challenges with European R&I funding</p> <p>Chair: Tania VAN LOON, Coordinator European Research Funding, Vrije Universiteit Brussel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The New European Bauhaus Initiative</i>, by Sophia VLIAGER DE OLIVEIRA, Policy Assistant, European Commission, JRC Unit B4 – New European Bauhaus • <i>The Academic Observatory for Cycling and Active Mobilities</i>, by Julian RANDALL, Director Research Services, University of Lausanne <p>Moderated discussion</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>Members' corner: "Priorities and proposals for future UNICA research activities"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandusa BITEL, Representative in Brussels and Deputy Director of the R&D Department, Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy • Capucine BOIDIN, Vice President Research, Sorbonne Nouvelle • Anna DEMNER, Senior Research Officer & Acting head of the Office, Office for International Research and Liaison, University of Warsaw • Alina Mihaela DIMA, Vice-Rector, Scientific Research, Development and Innovation, Bucharest University of Economic Studies • Valentina GECEVSKA, Vice Rector for Science, Research & Innovation, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje • Julian RANDALL, Director Research Services, University of Lausanne

7:00-17:30	Guided tour of Usquare.brussels with Benjamen WAYENS , Responsible for the ULB-VUB OpenLab@Usquare
18:00-20:30	<p>“Thinking dinner” at Restaurant Le Mess, Bd Louis Schmidt 1, 1040 Etterbeek</p> <p><i>Participants are invited to enjoy a “thinking dinner”, which will provide an opportunity for informal and convivial conversations facilitated by a chair on the main topics of the UNICA Research meeting. The tables will rotate to get all the participants to know each other and allow for diverse discussions.</i></p>

Day 2 - Tuesday, 3 December

Venue: Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Campus Etterbeek, Pleinlaan 9, 1050 Brussels - Meeting room “Zaal Weber” (1st floor)

8:30-9:00	Registration of participants & Welcome Coffee
9:00-10:30	<p>Session 2 - Research infrastructure: sharing good practices, considering collaboration and improving research infrastructure access</p> <p>Chair: Elsie PREMEREUR, Research & Grant Officer, Vrije Universiteit Brussel</p> <p>Keynote speeches (followed by moderated discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emanuela BELLAN, Head of Unit Member States Partnerships and International Relations, European Commission’s Joint Research Centre • Koen JONKERS, Head of Unit for Scientific Development Programmes, European Commission’s Joint Research Centre
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:30	<p>Session 3 - Contributing to policy shaping: the European Research Area</p> <p>Chair: Pieter BALLON, Vice Rector Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Coordinator of UNICA Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Vinciane GAILLARD, Acting Director for Research and Innovation, European University Association (pre-recorded) • Perspectives on the ERA actions, by Agnese RUSAKOVA, Senior Researcher, University of Latvia, FORTHEM Alliance and Expert, Council of Rectors of Latvia • Perspectives on the ERA action on AI, by Elisa MAES, Head of Data Management, Vrije Universiteit Brussel • Discussion and brainstorming on the ERA actions 2025-2027
12:30-13:00	Wrap up: conclusions and action points from the meeting
13:00-14:00	Group picture & Farewell lunch