



Network of Universities  
from the Capitals of Europe



# LET'S PLAY THE IRO BINGO!

## RULES:

- 1- The presenter will describe a situation.  
If you have ever experienced that, mark it on your card.
- 2- Once you've marked your card 7 times, scream **BINGO!**
- 3- If you're the first to scream, you'll be crowned **"UNICA's Supreme Grand Master of International Relations Operations"**
- 4- If you lose, applaud the winner!

**READY?**  
**LET'S BINGO!**

# Let's rewind & remember...

UNICA IROs met for the first time in September 1995, at the University of Lausanne!

*... do you remember what the world looked like in 1995?*



146,000  
students apply for ERASMUS  
mobility grants in 1994-95



- Erasmus was growing steadily but still relatively small
- International Offices were beginning to use email regularly.

- Erasmus mobility growing rapidly
- First early discussions on digitalisation of mobility management
- Everyone talked about “internationalisation at home.”

- Mobility frozen or cancelled
- Virtual exchanges and online classrooms became survival tool
- Universities created crisis response teams overnight.

**2000**

**2005**

**2010**

**2015**

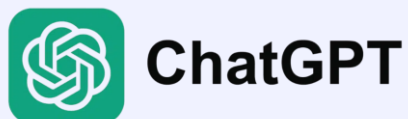
**2020**

- Bologna Process reforms were reshaping degrees;
- ECTS was becoming standard;
- Mobility was still mostly paperwork-driven.

- Erasmus+ (launched in 2014) fully underway;
- Mobility Tool+ used heavily (for better or worse!);
- Internationalisation strategies became central to universities;
- Lots of projects on virtual exchange and blended mobility.

...AND TODAY!?

# 2025



- Blended mobility is normal;
- Digitalisation of Erasmus processes much more advanced (EWP in everyday use);
- Universities focus on sustainability, inclusion, and global partnerships;
- AI is influencing advising, admin workflows, and student support.

# 1,500,000

students, learners, professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, sport coaches and young people benefit from Erasmus



# Map of IRO Meetings

**23 universities**  
have hosted  
the IRO  
Meeting!



**1995:** UNIL | Lausanne  
**1996:** U. Wien | Wien  
**1997:** U. Oslo | Oslo  
**1998:** U. Cyprus | Nicosia  
**1999:** VUB | Brussels  
**2000:** UAM | Madrid  
**2001:** UCD | Dublin  
**2002:** U. Cyprus | Nicosia  
**2003:** U. Warsaw | Warsaw  
**2004:** U. Zagreb | Zagreb  
**2005:** TalTech | Tallinn  
**2006:** NOVA | Lisbon  
**2007:** U. Ljubljana | Ljubljana  
**2008:** UPMC | Paris  
**2009:** U. Cyprus | Nicosia  
**2010:** Humboldt U. | Berlin  
**2011:** U. Oslo | Oslo  
**2012:** UNIL | Lausanne  
**2013:** ULB | Brussels  
**2014:** Ankara U. | Ankara  
**2015:** Vilnius U. | Vilnius  
**2016:** U. Zagreb | Zagreb  
**2017:** U. Copenhagen | Copenhagen  
**2018:** King's College | London  
**2019:** U. Tallinn | Tallinn  
**2020:** Online  
**2021:** Online  
**2022:** UNICA | Brussels  
**2023:** Sofia U. | Sofia  
**2024:** ASE | Bucharest  
**2025:** U. Tallinn | Tallinn





# CHAMPION HOST OF THE UNICA IRO MEETING!



Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου  
University of Cyprus

3 TIMES HOST!  
1998 – 2002 - 2009



# A WHOLE LOT OF MEETINGS...

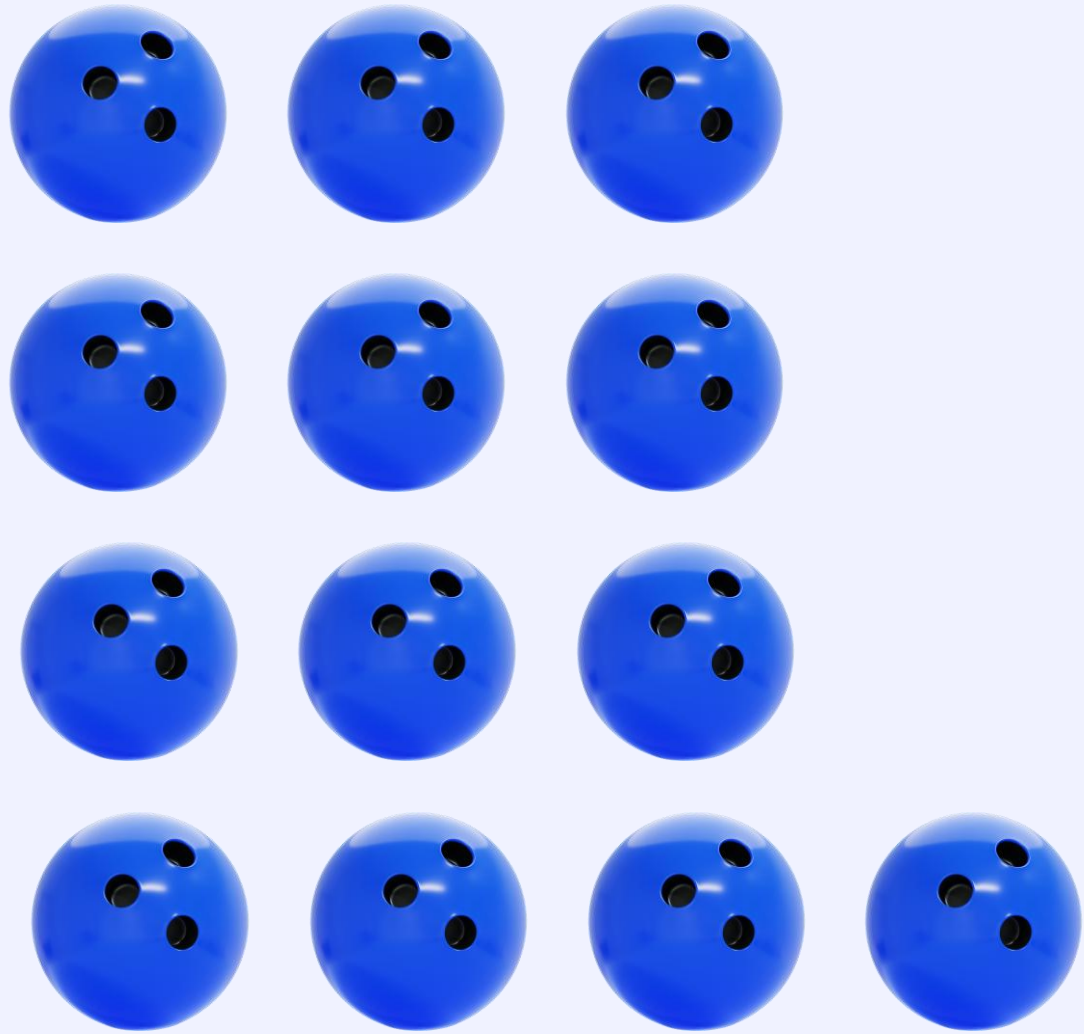
(31 Meetings – 2 Online)= 29

Average 15 boxes per meetings

Average 200 gr per box



# ...A WHOLE LOT OF CHOCOLATE!



# Some achievements worth celebrating!



## Un programme taillé sur mesure pour "administratifs mobiles"

*En juin 1993, le Secrétariat du réseau UNICA introduisait auprès du Bureau Erasmus une demande d'aide financière pour des visites effectuées par le personnel de l'enseignement supérieur.*

*Ce projet visait à offrir aux responsables administratifs des Universités membres, dont les missions ont une dimension européenne, voire internationale, la possibilité d'effectuer un stage d'une semaine dans un bureau équivalent d'une autre Université UNICA.*

*Pour les administratifs, les effets induits prévisibles se situaient à plusieurs niveaux:*

- *enrichissement de leur mission par une approche comparative;*
- *approfondissement de leur formation en gestion universitaire;*
- *amélioration des connaissances et de l'expérience du système d'enseignement supérieur du pays visité;*
- *perfectionnement en langues par une immersion dans le pays même et dans un milieu de travail comparable;*
- *renforcement du dialogue au sein d'UNICA à un autre niveau de responsabilités et, dès lors, développement des partenariats et de la coopération interuniversitaire.*

*Vu le succès remporté par ce programme d'échanges auquel ont participé dix candidats, le réseau UNICA a financé la même année un programme similaire sur ses fonds propres, ce qui a permis à six autres candidats d'y participer, notamment à un candidat non-éligible dans le cadre d'Erasmus (voir tableau).*

**YVON MOLINGHEN (ULB)  
A l'Universidade Nova de Lisboa**

Le but de cette visite à l'Universidade Nova de Lisboa était triple: améliorer mon niveau de portugais, découvrir comment les programmes de mobilité européens sont gérés à Lisbonne et échanger des informations sur le fonctionnement et les programmes de cours de nos universités respectives, afin de pouvoir développer éventuellement des contacts.

## 1993

UNICA is a pioneer in the promotion of mobilities for administrative staff



# Some achievements worth celebrating!



## 2008

UNICA coordinates the project European Campus, which aims to attract students from outside Europe to study at the EHEA, improve information provision, and promote standardisation of HE

A screenshot of the European Campus website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for HOME, STORIES, ABOUT THE PROJECT, and GET YOUR TEMPLATE. The main header features the "Study in Europe" title with a subtext "Find Your Master's Programme and discover the European Student Life." Below this are buttons for "Explore Masters" and "Explore Stories". A featured section for the "International Master in Material and Nanosciences" lists the application deadline (26 April 2009), study field (Physical sciences), starting date (6 September 2009), and language (English). Below this, a section titled "What Do People Say?" shows "No Stories for this Master". The bottom section contains a "KEYWORD SEARCH" bar and a "GUIDED SEARCH" table. The table lists study fields, countries, and cities with their respective counts. To the right of the table is a map of Europe titled "MASTER COURSES IN EUROPE" showing the locations of various master's programs. The map is powered by Google.

# Some achievements worth celebrating!



## 2010

UNICA takes part in the ExchangeAbility project, which encouraged a higher number of students with disabilities to go for an exchange.

## 2015

Building on previous work, UNICA joins the consortium behind the project MappED!, which aimed at creating an online platform that would provide information on support services and mobility opportunities.



# Some achievements worth celebrating!



## 2013

UNICA's most successful project, aimed to create an online platform (website) where HEIs can promote their staff trainings and where HEIs' staff can easily find the opportunity they are looking for.

A screenshot of the iMOTION website. The header includes the iMOTION logo and navigation links: "Staff Week search", "Publish your staff week!", "About iMOTION", "Contact form (only for general inquiries)", "Job Shadowing Opportunities", and "Privacy Policy". A notice dated 22 Aug 2025 is displayed. The main content area is titled "About the platform" and describes the project's goals and the iMOTION staffmobility.eu platform. A video player shows a promotional video for iMOTION with a red play button. The footer features four circular icons with corresponding text: a magnifying glass for "Search your staff week", an airplane for "Search your job shadowing", a ribbon for "Apply for a job shadowing or as an expert", and a calendar for "Create your own staff week".

# Some achievements worth celebrating!



The screenshot shows the homepage of the UNICA Summer and Winter Schools Programmes website. At the top, the UNICA logo is on the left, followed by the text "Summer and Winter Schools Programmes". Navigation links for "Home", "News", "Schools", "Universities", and "Login" are in the center, and social media icons for RSS, Facebook, and Twitter are on the right. The main heading reads "Discover Summer and Winter School Programmes from the Universities of the Capitals of Europe". Below this is a search bar with the placeholder "Topic or Location" and a red "Search" button. A colorful illustration of European city landmarks (Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, etc.) is positioned above a map of Europe. The map has red location pins and labels for various countries and cities. On the left side of the map, a box titled "Latest school programmes" lists two programs: "univie: winter School for Cultural Historical Studies 2026" and "University of Ljubljana summer school courses 2025".

UNICA Summer and Winter Schools Programmes

Home News Schools Universities Login

Discover Summer and Winter School Programmes from the Universities of the Capitals of Europe

Topic or Location Search

Latest school programmes

**univie: winter School for Cultural Historical Studies 2026** Winter school

University: University of Vienna  
Topic area: Art & Design, Social Sciences  
Course dates: 30 January, 2026 to 13 February, 2026  
Application deadline: 30 November, 2025

**University of Ljubljana summer school courses 2025** Summer school

University: University of Ljubljana  
Topic area: Art & Design, Economics, Engineering & Sciences  
Course dates: 10 April, 2025 to 22 September, 2025  
Application deadline: 1 September, 2025



## 2013

UNICA launches the Summer & Winter Schools portal, giving member universities the opportunity to share information on their summer school programmes

# Some achievements worth celebrating!



## 2023

UNICA is invited to take part in experts' groups:

- Erasmus+ KA131 Higher Education Mobility Working Group
- Erasmus Without Paper Student & University Forum

## The University and Students Forum

The University and Students Forum represents University Networks, European University Alliances and European student organisations. It meets twice a year.

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### Role

The forum has a consultative role on defining the priorities and timeline of the digitisation roadmap. It also helps networks, alliances and student organisations to communicate together and sync their activities with the development of Erasmus Without Paper, especially in the broader context of the European Education Area.

**The world changed...**

**... but that's not all!**

# IRO Observers 2002-2025



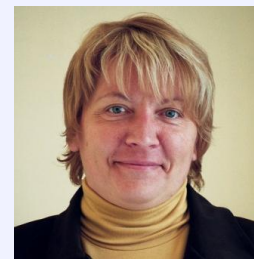
**2002**

Hélène Ullerø  
University of Oslo



**2010-2011**

Ursula Hans  
Humboldt U. zu Berlin



**2018-2019**

Alina Gržibovska  
University of Latvia



**2002 – 2005**

Jolanta Urbanikova  
University of Warsaw



**2012-2013**

Trine Sand  
University of Copenhagen



**2018-2019**

Hedvig Gyde Thomsen  
University of Copenhagen



**2006-2007**

Markus Laitinen  
University of Helsinki



**2014-2015**

Tiina Mäe  
Tallinn University



**2019-2021**

Damiano Pinnacchio  
University of Rome Tor Vergata



**2008-2009**

Catherine Convery  
University College Dublin



**2016-2017**

Guri Vestad  
University of Oslo



**2021-2022**

Minna Koutaniemi  
University of Helsinki

# IRO Observers 2002-2025



**2023-Today**

Elena Avgoustidou-Kyriacou  
University of Cyprus





# What will the world look like in 30 years?



GO TO MENTI.COM  
AND INSERT CODE  
**5666 1283**

OR SCAN



1. What is one change you believe will most shape the world in the next 30 years?

**CLICK** to stop scrolling

2. What do you think internationalisation in higher education will look like in 2055?

**CLICK** to stop scrolling

3. What skill or mindset do you think IRO professionals will absolutely need in 30 years?

**CLICK** to stop scrolling

4. What is one bold, out-of-this-world idea you wish could become reality in 30 years?

**CLICK** to stop scrolling



**See you in 30 years!**

(or maybe just 10)

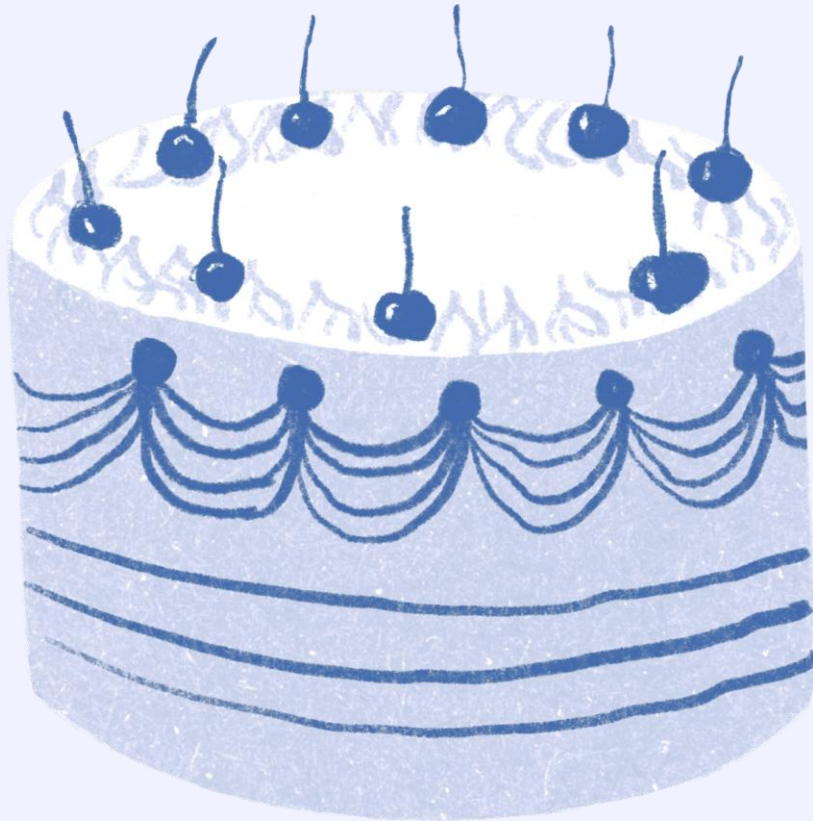


Your answers will be locked  
in a very safe and protected  
locker in the virtual cloud of  
UNICA...

and shall be open in the  
group's next anniversary!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY IRO GROUP!



LET'S KEEP  
**SHARING,**  
**LEARNING,**  
**ADDING VALUE**  
FOR 30 MORE YEARS!



Network of Universities  
from the Capitals of Europe



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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