



Network of Universities  
from the Capitals of Europe

Sharing

Learning

Adding value

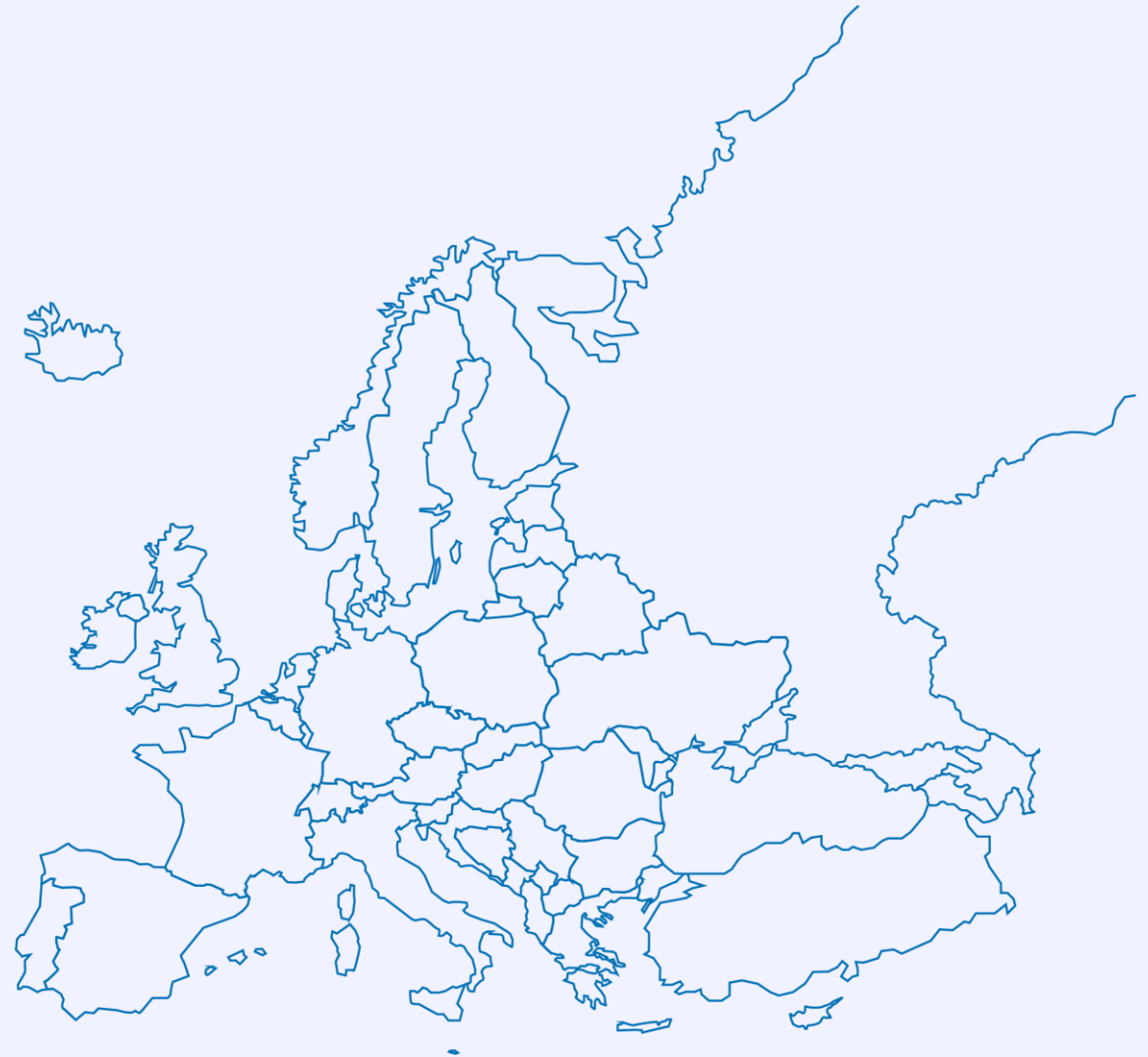


# 01. What is UNICA?

UNICA, the institutional Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe, brings together **52 member universities in 38 capital cities** of Europe.

Our members extend from the Westernmost European capital, Reykjavik (Iceland), to the Easternmost one, Baku (Azerbaijan).

We combine over 150.000 university staff and 1.500,000 students!



“UNICA is the best example of a successful promoter of transnational cooperation in academia. Your work with communities and stakeholders is the key to ensure the success of these initiatives.

We count on you to help us shape the future of Higher Education in Europe.”

- Iliana Ivanova, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth (2023-2024) | UNICA Days, Feb. 2024

## 02. Mission & Vision

UNICA Members benefit from the **unique opportunities of being in capital cities** - cultural diversity, proximity to government, and innovative capacities - giving them a key role in addressing global challenges and shaping the future.

### **Our mission:**

- To foster international collaboration
- To strengthen academic leadership
- To promote networking among members

### **Our vision:**

- To drive the development of the EHEA and ERA by empowering our members to unlock their potential for the benefit of society

# 03. Activities



## Our clusters of activities



## Our actions

-  UNICA Days
-  Rector's Seminars
-  Capacity building events
-  Policy & engagement

-  Students & alumni activities
-  European funded projects
-  Platforms of international mobility opportunities (staffmobility.eu + Summer & Winter Schools portal)

# The UNICA Days (flagship event!)

The event to connect and empower the community of European Higher Education & Research!

## Objectives:

- Strengthen network & collaboration
- Enhance democracy and societal resilience
- Address the evolving needs of the Higher Education and Research
- Reinforce the role of capital-based universities in societal progress

**1<sup>st</sup> Edition: 28 Feb – 1 Mar, 2024**  
**“Navigating the Future: Strengthening Democracy through Education and Research”**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: Feb 26 – 28, 2025**  
**“The role of university networks in the context of the European Universities alliances and of the evolving Higher Education landscape”**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Edition: Feb 25 – 27, 2026 (NOW!)**  
**“EU-Canada Cooperation: Shared Values, Shared Futures”**



## STRASBOURG

**Jun 2025** | UNICA attends the European Youth Event, on the invitation of the EP Youth Outreach Unit

## BRUSSELS

**Feb 2025** | UNICA President speaks at the Science|Business Annual Public Conference on the EU policies in R&I

**Feb 2025** | UNICA Days in Brussels: “The role of university networks in the context of the European Universities alliances”

**Jul 2025** | UNICA Summer Reception

**Sep 2025** | OP4C Final Event “Skills for a burning world”

**Dec 2025** | UNICA Winter Reception

## LONDON

**May 2025** | Conference “How models of Higher Education travel internationally”

## HANNOVER

**Oct 2025** | UNICA attends the inaugural event of GICHE

## WARSAW

**Sep 2025** | UNICA Research Meeting on “Strengthening Research Collaboration in a Changing Landscape”

## RIGA

**Apr 2025** | UNICA Rectors’ Panel “Competitiveness & Inclusiveness in R&I in Europe: a UNICA perspective”

## TALLINN

**Dec 2025** | UNICA IRO Meeting on “Strategic Internationalisation”

## PODGORICA

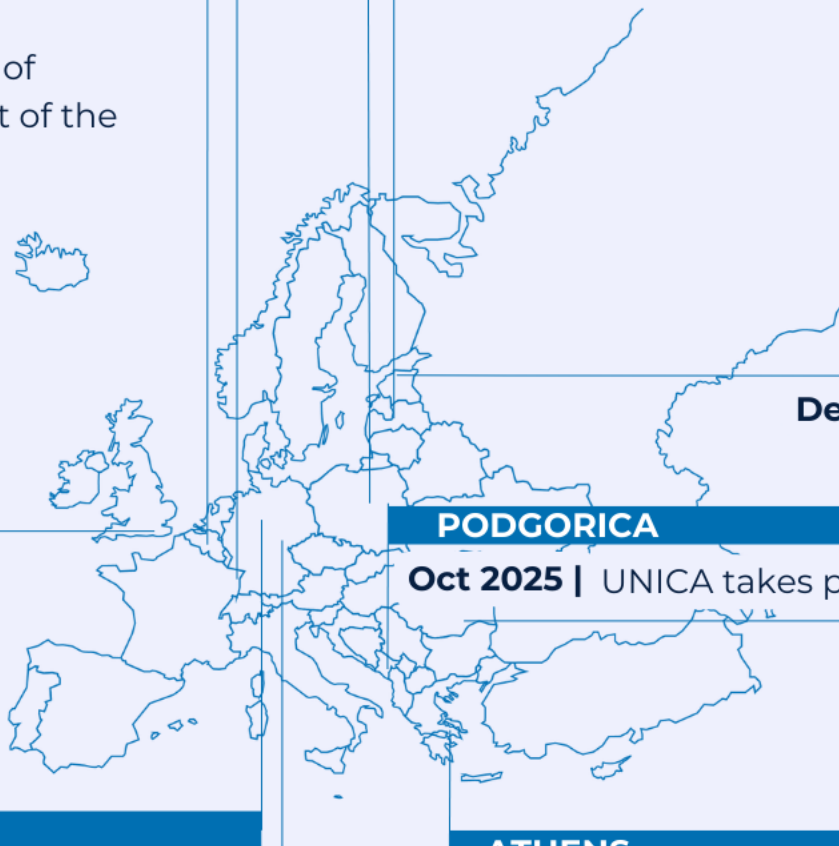
**Oct 2025** | UNICA takes part in the S|B Widening\_public conference

## BUCHAREST

**Nov 2025** | UNICA Alumni Relations Meeting on “The Strategic Value of Alumni Relations”

## ATHENS

**Jun 2025** | 35th UNICA General Assembly & Rectors’ Seminar “The key role of the Humanities in our universities”



**Oct 2025** | UNICA attends the inaugural event of GICHE

# 04. Policy Engagement & Publications

*From Members to Policymakers:  
Engaging, Contributing, Representing*

How we do it:

- **Partnering** with European institutions and networks on key policy priorities
- Producing **joint positions and publications** grounded in members' expertise
- Ensuring universities from capital cities are **heard at European level**



Meeting between the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, and the dissemination partners for the EU elections 2024 | May 2024

# 05. Upcoming!



UNICA  University of Zagreb

**SCIENCE|BUSINESS®**  
THE WIDENING  
BRIDGING THE INNOVATION GAP

 UNIC

High-level Science|Business  
Widening Initiative Conference

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Fostering  
Innovative Careers

26-27 March 2026  
University of Zagreb

 Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Target audience

- EU institutions representatives
- UNICA members' representatives
- Members of the Science | Business Widening Initiative
- Stakeholders from European networks, partnerships, and infrastructures

## Objectives

- Examine the role of universities in supporting EU competitiveness
- Explore the evolution of the 5th Freedom
- Highlight opportunities for graduates
- Contribute to a S|B report with key insights



7-8 May 2026 | King's College London



Frameworks of reference for the protection and promotion of academic freedom: institutional, national and supra-national. What works best?



## Target audience

- Vice-Rectors for education and/or student affairs
- Representatives of academic leadership, responsible of education & teaching
- Deans and Directors for innovation in education
- Coordinators of study programmes from UNICA members.

## Objectives

- Assess current threats to academic freedom
- Explore emerging frameworks of reference
- Define universities' responsibilities and autonomy
- Foster dialogue with external stakeholders



Universidad  
de Alcalá

24-26 Jun 2026

# UNICA General Assembly & Rectors' Seminar

“Bridging Continents, Fostering Dialogue.  
University Leadership for Transformative  
Euro-Latin American Collaboration”



## Target audience

- Leadership from UNICA members universities
- Academic leadership and representatives of Latin American universities, institutions, and university networks.
- Invited representatives of European institutions, peer networks, Higher Education stakeholders.

## Objectives

- Assess opportunities and challenges for enhanced cooperation with Latin America
- Promote interregional collaboration in response to shared global challenges
- Position capital-based universities as key actors in diplomacy, culture, and innovation

## 05. Connect with UNICA



[unica-network.eu](http://unica-network.eu)



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UNICA – Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe



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