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Reconnecting through Erasmus+: KA2 Cooperation for UK & EU Universities



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1. Event details

The session will be held **online via Zoom** and will last **90 minutes**, taking place on **Tuesday, 19 May, from 13:00 to 14:30 CEST**.

2. Policy context and rationale

The United Kingdom and the European Union have formally agreed on the [UK's association to the Erasmus+ programme starting in 2027](#). The legal text enabling this participation was signed in **April 2026**, following commitments made at the **EU-UK Summit in May 2025**. This agreement restores the UK's access to Erasmus+ after its withdrawal in 2020 and places UK institutions on the same footing as EU Member States and other associated third countries.

The agreement currently covers the **2027–28 academic year**, with continued participation beyond that period subject to future negotiations linked to the next **EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034)**.

The return of the UK to Erasmus+ creates a timely opportunity for UNICA to support its members in understanding the programme's cooperation actions and in rebuilding cross-border partnerships.

This session aims to ensure that UK members re-enter the programme with clarity and confidence, while EU members can reconnect with UK partners in a structured and meaningful way.

3. Objectives

Participants will:

- Gain a clear understanding of all Erasmus+ KA2 actions
- Understand funding models, application requirements, and evaluation criteria.
- Identify potential project ideas and thematic priorities relevant to their institutions.
- Connect with peers across the UNICA network to explore future partnerships and consortia opportunities.

4. Agenda

13:00 – 13:05	Welcome & Opening Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luciano Saso, UNICA Secretary General • Elena Avgoustidou-Kyriacou, Director of the International Relations Service, University of Cyprus and Coordinator of the UNICA IRO Group
13:05 – 13:35	Understanding Erasmus+ KA2: Presentation by EACEA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter Zampieri, Head of Unit, European Higher Education European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full overview of all KA2 actions • Funding models, including the lump-sum approach • Key eligibility and award criteria • Common pitfalls and success factors • What to expect in the next programme cycle
13:35 – 13:50	Q&A with EACEA
	<p>Moderated by UNICA Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifications on KA2 rules and procedures • Questions from participants
13:50 – 14:20	Match-Making & Partner Search (30 min)
	Break-out rooms organised by thematic area, based on participants' selection in the registration form.
14:20 – 14:30	Closing & Next Steps (5 min)

5. Speakers

**Listed in order of appearance*



Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) coordinated several research projects in the field of pharmacology and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and has been Deputy Rector at Sapienza University of Rome for 8 years (2014-2022). In the last 25 years, he participated in several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences. Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for four years (2011-2015) and President for eight years (2015-2023) He took over the role of Secretary General of the UNICA Network in June 2023.



Elena Avgoustidou-Kyriacou was born in Nicosia, Cyprus and was educated in the UK. She holds a BSc in Economics (University of Leicester) and an MBA-Finance (Imperial College London). She is the Director of the International Relations Service of the University of Cyprus (UCY), and the Director of the Confucius Institute at UCY since 2014. She is also the UCY Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator and the Secretary of the UCY International Relations Committee. She has been working in international relations since 1993 and has an expertise in mobility, international cooperation, international development, cultural diplomacy, as well as international recruitment and promotion and publications.



Walter Zampieri is the Head of Unit for European Higher Education in the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Before taking up his current post, he led the unit managing the Culture strand of the Creative Europe programme in EACEA as well as the unit for Cultural Policy in the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission (EAC). Previously, he had been deputy head of the coordination unit and assistant to the Director General for Education and Culture. He started his career in the Commission in the Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs. Among his previous positions, there was the secretariat of the Social Protection Committee. He has a PhD from the University of Connecticut (USA) and a degree in Humanities from the University of Padua, in Italy. He has held teaching positions at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester MA) and at the University of Central Florida (Orlando FL).