



Network of Universities  
from the Capitals of Europe

# UNICA WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014



Sharing,  
learning,  
adding value



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# UNICA'S FOUR GOALS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014

## 1. *Sharing, learning, adding value: increasing the quality of UNICA events*

*Sharing, learning, adding value* are the 3 goals that lie behind each and every meeting organized by UNICA. To make sure that they correspond with the expectations and needs of the members and to further enhance their quality, UNICA conducts **evaluation questionnaires** in which the participants can express their opinion about the event's general organization, content, and format, and make suggestions for the future meetings. In the academic year 2012/2013, evaluation surveys have been carried out for 10 UNICA meetings, twice more than in the previous year. On average, **86,6%** of respondents evaluated the quality of the meetings' content as good or very good, and **80%** declared that they would use the gained knowledge in their institutions.

To add detail to the received feedback and concrete suggestions, UNICA organizes **preparatory meetings** with the members of UNICA Working Groups in order to discuss improvements and decide upon the next events' formats, programmes, main thematic tracks, and contributors. Next year, we plan to foster discussions online through the use of **LinkedIn groups**.

**UNICA participation charts** are an important source information both for UNICA and its individual members. The new participation charts have been enriched with **new statistics and graphs** (i.e. the participation of a given University in UNICA events according to clusters) and their visual (online) representation will be further improved next year.

## 2. *Shaping policies & recommendations*

UNICA offers its members a platform for dialogue on the demands of strategic change in higher education and aims to articulate their views and recommendations. While supporting its member universities in the implementation of their new policies and strategies, the Network itself develops guidelines and recommendations. Following the *UNICA membership policy*, *UNICA equal opportunities policy*, *UNICA policy on internal communication*, *UNICA policy for projects*, and the *UGAF Pledge*, the **Criteria for engagements outside the European area** document, being a UNICA Steering Committee's response to

trends reflected in the European Commission policy document *European Higher Education in the World* (July 2013), will be discussed at the UNICA General Assembly 2013.

### 3. Communication within the Network: making the complex simpler

Effective communication is key for the UNICA members to stay updated and interested in the Network's activities and a requisite for promoting UNICA and its members externally.

UNICA continues to seek new ways to smooth the path of the information flow between the UNICA Secretariat and the UNICA members. In this context, the new **UNICA online database** will provide a substantial improvement for communicating updates and changes in the member universities' data.

With the proliferation of social media and new online tools, communication channels are multiplying. This is why, without resigning from traditional means such as mailings and quarterly newsletters, UNICA will provide alternative communication channels for social media users. Event announcements and important news will be shared on **UNICA Facebook and LinkedIn pages**, and UNICA members will have an opportunity to discuss different topics of interest through **LinkedIn Groups**.

The number of UNICA website's visitors rose from 6,000 to 11,000 per month in about one year. However, the appearance of new technologies and the changing trends in web design do not allow us to stand still. The **redesigning of the UNICA website** planned for the years 2014-2015 will increase its functionality for the members with online participation charts and member-only intranet components. The new website will have an improved navigation and download options and will be integrated with social media.

As in the previous academic year, UNICA Secretariat staff will follow training courses aimed at improving their knowledge of the latest trends in web communications and skills in communications & graphic software.

### 4. Enhancing UNICA's visibility

Positioning the Network as an important stakeholder in the European Higher Education Area is one of the core tasks of UNICA. In the academic year

2013/2014, we will continue to enhance the presence of the Network on the European and global scene by participating in and implementing the **EC-funded projects**. At the same time, convinced that by working together we can do (and demonstrate) more, we will **work together with other Higher Education actors**. With European University Association (EUA), UNICA will collaborate in the context of the Arab-Euro University Conference on Higher Education and continue our cooperation with the EUA Council of Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) in the framework of the UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS. Together with Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities and the Organization of the American States, UNICA will pursue a capacity building project. Likewise, we will pursue our collaboration with our long-standing partners, Santander Group, Compostela Group, and Scholars At Risk.

Raising visibility of the Network means also contributing to the **visibility of activities of its individual members**. Next year, in the framework of the IMOTION project funded by the European Commission, UNICA will offer its members an **online platform to promote their staff training weeks** and other staff mobility schemes. Early next year, the **launch of the UNICA Summer & Winter Schools portal** will offer a new promotion tool for the UNICA universities' summer and winter programmes. In parallel, will continue to promote and disseminate UNICA universities' new initiatives, activities, and projects on the **UNICA website**.

# UNICA ACTIVITIES 2013/2014 ACCORDING TO CLUSTERS

## 1. Internationalisation & Mobility



- **UNICA IRO meeting**
  - UNICA IRO meeting 2014, Ankara University, 5-6 May 2014
  - Preparation of the UNICA IRO meeting 2015, Vilnius University, dates TBC
- **International PR & Communication**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> UNICA PR & Communication Workshop, Vilnius University, 15-16 May 2014
- **UNICA at the 26<sup>th</sup> EAIE Conference** "Stepping into a new era", Prague, 16-19 September 2014
- **Summer & Winter Schools**
  - Launching the UNICA Summer & Winter Schools portal
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> UNICA Summer & Winter Organisers meeting, University of Helsinki (TBC)
- **UNICA Student Conference 2014: *Make it Happen. Student Action Plan***, Université de Lausanne, 8-11 October 2014

### EC PROJECTS – INTERNATIONALISATION & MOBILITY

#### Projects (UNICA as Coordinator):

- **NEW! IMOTION - Integration and Promotion of Staff Training Courses at Universities across Europe**, under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Accompanying Measures; project period: 1/10/2012–30/9/2014  
**Aim:** Creating an online platform where HEIs can promote their staff training courses, university staff – find appropriate training or job shadowing, and participants – give their feedback on the training they attended;  
**Coordinator:** UNICA; **Partners:** Sapienza U. of Rome (UNICA member), U. Ghent, Santander Group, Compostela Group, European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (Cyprus).

## Projects (UNICA as Partner):

- **EGRACONS – European GRading CONVersion System – Practical Approach to Improving ECTS Implementation in Europe**, under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects; project period: 1/10/2012 – 30/9/2014  
**Coordinator:** U. Ghent; **UNICA's role:** WP leader: Dissemination; **Aim:** Achieving a simple and unified interpretation and implementation of the ECTS grade conversion tables as recommended in the EC's ECTS User's guide since 2009; **Partners:** Santander Group, U. de Liège; Sapienza U. of Rome, U. of Lausanne, Vilnius U., U. of Warsaw (all 4 UNICA members), U. of Rouen, U. of Leon, U. of Gothenburg, U. of Essex, Justus Liebig U. Giessen, Stichting Hoger Onderwijs Nederland, Den Haag; **Project website:** [www.egracons.eu](http://www.egracons.eu)
  
- **EM-ACE – Promoting Erasmus Mundus Towards European Students: Activate, Communicate, Engage** under Erasmus Mundus Action 3: National Structures; project period: 01/09/2012 – 30/08/2015; 3 years)  
**Coordinator:** Sapienza U. of Rome; **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP 2: Developing promotional material and WP4: Promotional campaign; **Aim:** By tailoring the promotion of Erasmus Mundus towards European students, the project aims at increasing both quantity and quality of received applications for Erasmus Mundus study programmes; **Partners:** Campus France - The Knowledge Partnership – Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association; **Project website:** [www.em-ace.eu/en/](http://www.em-ace.eu/en/)

## 2. Education

- **UNICA Bologna Lab**

- 14<sup>th</sup> UNICA Bologna Lab Coordinators meeting on teacher training and research on education, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, 5-6 December 2013. *10 years after the founding of the UNICA*

*Bologna Lab Coordinators Group, the 14th UNICA Bologna Lab meeting will take a look beyond the Bologna Process and **new perspectives and challenges in teacher training** and present hands-on examples on **how to reinvent and restructure teacher education**. The meeting will also address the future of the Bologna Lab and the creation of a **UNICA Expert Group in Higher Education Research**.*



- Preparation of the 15<sup>th</sup> UNICA Bologna Lab (hosting university and dates to be confirmed)

## EC PROJECTS – EDUCATION

### Projects (UNICA as Partner):

- **NEW! PASCL: Peer Assessment of Student Centred Learning** under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects, project period: 01/10/2013 – 01/07/2016 (3 years)  
**Coordinator:** European Students' Union (ESU); **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP4: Piloting the Peer Assessment and WP7: Exploitation; **Aim:** Developing a peer assessment framework (PASCL guidelines) for "student-centeredness" of HE institutions and a European recognition award for student-centred institutions that would confirm that an institution has successfully incorporated the elements of student-centred learning in its teaching & learning strategy; **Partners:** UNICA, National Unions of Students in Europe (ESIB), Finnish Institute for Educational Research - U. of Jyväskylä (JYU), Central European U. (CEU), Melius s.r.l., Knowledge Innovation Centre (KIC).
- **Be-Twin 2: ECVET-ECTS - Building Bridges and Overcoming Differences, continuation of the Be-Twin project** under Leonardo da Vinci: multilateral projects for the Transfer of Innovation (TOI); project period: 01/10/2012 – 31/09/2014 (2 years)  
**Coordinator:** Centro Produttivita Veneto (Italy); **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of WP3: Adaptation of Methodology (together with experts from Charles U. in Prague); **Aim:** Adapting the methodology developed previously within the Be-TWIN project; **Partners:** UNICA, Regione Veneto – Direzione Formazione, Ufficio Scolastico Regionale per il Veneto, FONDAZIONE CRUI per e Università Italiane CCIP, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris, 3S research laboratory, Fachhochschule Technikum Wien – Höhere; Technische Bundeslehr- und Versuchsanstalt St.Pölten; Albeda College; KCH Services; .  
**Project's website:** [www.be-twin2.eu](http://www.be-twin2.eu)

## 3. Research & Development

- **UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers meetings**
  - 8<sup>th</sup> EU Research Liaison Officers meeting, University of Warsaw, 17-18 October 2013
  - Preparation of the 9<sup>th</sup> EU Research Liaison Officers meeting (hosting university and



dates to be confirmed)

- **UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS: Seminar for Heads of Doctoral Schools & Programmes and practitioners in doctoral supervision**
  - Publication of the Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS: *How Does Globalisation Affect Supervision?* (Centre for Advanced Academic Studies of the U. of Zagreb, Dubrovnik, 1-4 September 2013)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS, CAAS U. of Zagreb, Dubrovnik, first week of September 2014

## EC PROJECTS – RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (1)

### Projects (UNICA as Coordinator):

- **NEW! Enhancing quality of doctoral education at Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan – UZDOC** under TEMPUS IV – Structural Measures; project period: 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2016 (36 months)  
**Coordinator:** UNICA; **Aim:** Enhancing the quality of doctoral education in Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan, in line with the principles of the European Higher Education Area; **Partners:** U. of Zagreb, Sapienza U. of Rome, Comenius U. in Bratislava (all three UNICA members), U. of Granada, Athens U. of Economics and Business (Greece), Tashkent Financial Institute, State Institute of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan, Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, Berdakh Qaraqalpaq State U., Karshi State University, Ministry of HE of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzbekistan).

### Projects (UNICA as Partner):

- **NEW! EUCNDOC: Enhancing the Visibility of European Higher Education and Strengthening the Dialogue and Cooperation with Chinese Stakeholders in the Field of Doctoral Education**, under Erasmus Mundus Action 3; project period: 1/10/2013 – 30/9/2016 (3 years)  
**Coordinator:** Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), **Aim:** Increasing awareness and knowledge about European Higher Education among Chinese HE actors and strengthening dialogue and cooperation between European and Chinese stakeholders in the field of doctoral education, training and research; **Partners:** UNICA, U. Of Vienna, Stockholm U. (both UNICA members), U. of Tampere, Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (BCECC), China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), Beijing Normal University(BNU), Peking University (PKU), Shanghai Jiao Tong University,



Southwest University China (SWU). **UNICA's role:** Dissemination and Exploitation

- **NEW! PRIDE: Professionals in Doctoral Education: Supporting skills development to better contribute to an European knowledge society** under Lifelong Learning: Erasmus Multilateral Projects; project period: 1/10/2013 – 30/9/2016 (3 years)

**Coordinator:** U. of Vienna; **UNICA's role:** Coordinator of Dissemination Work Package and responsible for the organisation of the training course

**Aim:** Supporting skills development of administrative staff in doctoral education in order to provide better support to PhD supervisors, PhD candidates and external stakeholders; **Partners:** UNICA, U. of Zagreb, Humboldt U. zu Berlin, Vrije U. Brussel (VUB), Comenius U. In Bratislava, U. NOVA de Lisboa, Tallinn U. (all 6 UNICA members), Mediterranean Universities Union, Fundación Universidad Empresa of the Region of Murcia;

- **GENOVATE: Gender Equality Action Plan (FP7)** **Coordinator:** U. of Bradford; **Aim:** Ensuring equal opportunities for women and men at universities by encouraging a more gender-aware management in research and scientific bodies of HE institutions; **Partners:** U. Complutense de Madrid, Ankara U. (both UNICA members), Federico II U. of Naples, U. College Cork, Trnava U.; **UNICA's role:** Dissemination; Member of International Advisory Board; **Project website:** [www.genovate.eu](http://www.genovate.eu)

## 4. Policy & Strategy

- **UNICA Green Academic Footprint (UGAF)**

- 4<sup>th</sup> UGAF Workshop, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 26-28 March 2014. *The 4<sup>th</sup> UGAF Workshop will focus on Environmental*



*Management Systems at universities and will also address the question of how to unlock the potential of university environmental offices.*

- UGAF Staff Exchange
- Preparation of the UGAF Green School on Sustainable Education and the 5<sup>th</sup> UGAF Workshop (Université de Lausanne 2015)
- Dissemination & Promotion: UGAF brochure
- Web communication: "You've Got UGAF Mail" Newsletter, further development of the UGAF website and creation of the "Campus Green

Corners": interactive map with green spaces at the campuses of UNICA member universities

- Joint awareness-raising actions in the framework of European Waste Reduction Week (16-24 November 2013) and European Mobility Week (21-27 September 2014)
- UGAF traineeship for students of UGAF member universities
- Identifying relevant funding programmes and developing project proposals
- **Rectors Seminars: meetings for the representatives of university leadership**
  - Informal UNICA meeting for Rectors/Presidents in the framework of the EUA Annual Assembly 2014, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 3 April 2013 (TBC)
  - UNICA Rectors Seminar 2014, hosting university and dates to be announced
  - Rectors Seminar in the framework of the UNICA General Assembly 2014, Stockholm University, 23-25 October 2014
- **UNICA-MED**
  - Seminar in the framework of the UNICA General Assembly "UNICA and the Southern Mediterranean: Sharing, Learning, Cooperating", Sapienza U. of Rome in cooperation with U. of Rome "Tor Vergata" and Roma Tre University, 7-9 November 2013
  - project-based cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean
  - Identifying relevant funding programmes and developing project proposals
- **Scholarly Communication**
  - 7<sup>th</sup> UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar, Sapienza University of Rome, November 2014
- **UNICA and Scholars At Risk**
  - Expert Meeting on State Responsibility for Protecting Higher Education (Brussels, 12-13 December 2013). The meeting is hosted by UNICA and organised by UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR—and six international organizations— Scholars At Risk, CARA, Human Rights Watch, Institute of International Education, Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict, and Save the Children International.

- UNICA at the Scholars At Risk Global Congress, Amsterdam, 9-10 April 2014
- **UNI-Capital**
  - Development of university-city cooperation in the framework of the UNICA Green Academic Footprint initiative
  - Contribution to the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop of the "European Research Geography" project, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, 26 November 2013
  - (together with Brussels Studies Institute) Organisation of a Workshop "University in the Region", early June 2014

#### 4. Mission statement and link with the society & other organisations

In the academic year 2013-2014, UNICA aims to continue and to enhance the cooperation with peer university networks and other organizations.



- **Collaboration with the European University Association (EUA)** - UNICA as collective associate member
  - In the framework of the Euro-Arab Conference in Higher Education and the UNICA-MED initiative
  - Cooperation in the context of the UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS with the EUA Council of Doctoral Education
- **Collaboration with the Santander Group and the Compostela Group of Universities**
  - Organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint UNICA-Santander Group-Compostela Group Workshop on Career Offices & Student Employability (Brussels, dates TBA)
  - In the framework of EC projects (EGRACONS, IMOTION, RUMI)
- **Collaboration with the Organisation of American States (OAS) and Coimbra Brazil Network of Universities**
  - Organisation of a joint training on curriculum development & capacity building for the universities from Northern Latin America and the Caribbean (February and July 2013)
- **Collaboration with Scholars At Risk (SAR)**
  - UNICA hosting an Expert Meeting on State Responsibility for Protecting Higher Education (Brussels, 12-13 December 2013, see page 10).
- **Collaboration with other organisations**

- European Association for Erasmus Coordinators (EAEC) in the framework of the ERASMUS Congress and Exhibition 2014, 28 April -2 May 2014, Nicosia, Cyprus
- Collaboration with EUPRIO (European Universities PR & Information Officers) in the framework of the activities of the UNICA PR & Communication Group
- Collaboration with the Capital Cities and Regions Network (CCRN)

## EC PROJECTS – MISSION STATEMENT AND LINK WITH THE SOCIETY

- **NEW! RUMI: Réseau des Universités Marocaines pour l'Enseignement Inclusif (Network of Moroccan Universities for Inclusive Education)** under TEMPUS IV – Structural Measures; project period: 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2016 (36 months)  
**Coordinator:** UNICA; **Aim:** Establishing a network of Moroccan universities to promote procedures and good practices in the field of inclusive education and equal opportunities in Morocco; **Partners:** UNICA (Coordinator), 9 Moroccan universities, U. Roma Tre, Vrije U. Brussel (both UNICA members), Erasmus Access Network, Compostela Group, Fontys, U. Montpellier 3, Ministry of HE (Morocco), Minister of Solidarity, Woman, Family and Social Development (Morocco), Observatoire National du Developpement Humain – ONDH, Moroccan Association of Law Students.

## 6. General Assembly & Steering Committee meetings

- UNICA General Assembly 2014, Stockholm University, 23-25 October 2014 (TBC)
- **5 UNICA Steering Committee meetings:**
  1. Brussels, February/March 2014 (exact date to be announced)
  2. Brussels, May/June 2014 (exact date to be announced)
  3. (in the framework of the UNICA Student Conference, Université de Lausanne) Lausanne, 10 October 2014 (TBC)
  4. two meetings in the framework of the UNICA General Assembly (Stockholm University, 23 and 25 October 2014, TBC)