

Sharing,

learning,

adding value

LET'S UNICA! UNICA WORK PLAN 2017-2018



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

UNICA Work Plan 2017-2018

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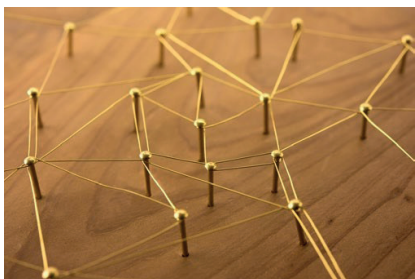
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FIVE FOCAL POINTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

1 Strengthening links with academic leaders of UNICA Member Universities



During the past two academic years, we worked towards reinforcing the relationship with Rectors and Presidents of UNICA Member Universities. To this end, we enhanced our communication with academic leaders by increasing the frequency of our **newsletters** (from quarterly to monthly), preparing special editions of **“Newsflash for Rectors and Vice-Rectors”** (2-3 per year) and raising

the number of meetings addressed for representatives of academic leadership. **Seven Rectors meetings**, including **three dedicated Rectors Seminars** to be held in the academic year 2017/2018, will offer new opportunities for academic leaders from UNICA Member Universities to meet and exchange experiences on issues of strategic importance in different areas of university activity. As working with female academic leaders from UNICA Member Universities and encouraging their involvement in the activities and the decision-making of the Network remains our priority, we will pursue our cooperation with the **European Women Rectors Association (EWORA)**.

2 Networking of networks



Convinced that by working together we can do (and achieve) even more, we will seek to **strengthen our cooperation** with peer networks and other organisations active in the European and international Higher Education area. You can find out more about our collaborations on page 14. Stronger relationships between UNICA and other university networks and key success factors for

strategic international partnerships will be addressed during different UNICA meetings taking place in the academic year 2017/2018.

3 Communicating WITH and FOR our Members



Sharing, learning, adding value – these three words lie behind every activity of UNICA. However, to create a real added value, real needs and challenges faced by our Members have to be identified and receive due attention and emphasis. In this context, the **first meeting for Chairs of UNICA Working Groups** will take place in Brussels in the first half of 2018 to look at the most

topical issues and burning questions for each of the Group, discuss how we can better support the development of the Groups’ activities and to identify potential synergies existing between the different Working Groups active within our Network. UNICA will pursue its communication & promotion activities through regular newsletters and ongoing development of the UNICA website, Staffmobility.eu platform, Summer Schools portal, and UNICA social media channels.

4 Strengthening the University-Capital City relationship



Published in May 2017, the European Commission’s Communication on a renewed EU agenda for higher education stressed the role of university and city/region collaboration in tackling future skills mismatches, building inclusive higher education systems, ensuring HEIs’ contribution to the region’s smart specialisation, and supporting effective and efficient higher education

systems. Through the **“University, Culture and the City” initiative and UNICA’s involvement in the Diplomatic, Academic, Economic (DEA) Missions** organised in collaboration with CIDIC (International Consular and Diplomatic Circle), we want to stress the common characteristic of UNICA Member Universities: their location in Capital Cities, their place in the Cities’ social, cultural, economic life, and the role they play in urban and regional development.

5 Fast-tracking professionalization of university staff



Changes in the European Higher Education landscape have an impact on almost every job performed at the university: the roles of university professionals are changing and new competencies are needed as the staff takes on new roles, tasks and responsibilities. Conscious of the **major role of training and continuous competence development of university staff**, UNICA

will continue to organise **meetings which serve as a forum** for new information, exchange of good practices and capacity building for different representatives of university community and to facilitate the development of the **EU-funded project proposals** that can respond directly to the hurdles faced by university staff in their day-to-day work. Moreover, **further development of the IMOTION Staffmobility.eu platform**, enabling the publication of more types of short-term and long-term staff training opportunities, is envisaged for the next academic year.

CELEBRATE WITH THE UNICA FAMILY!

In the academic year 2017/2018, we will have the honour and great pleasure to celebrate important milestones for our Member Universities during the following UNICA events:

- UNICA Rectors Seminar: *Networking of networks: Synergy of partnership* will take place in the context of the **University of Belgrade's 210th founding anniversary**, April/May 2018 (*exact dates to be confirmed soon*)
- The UNICA-Coimbra Group-Europaeum Rectors Seminar: *Legacy of Democracy, Humanism and Responsibility* (Charles University, 24-25 October 2018) will mark the **100th founding anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic**
- UNICA General Assembly 2018 and the Seminar: *Universities in Europe: From hundred years back to hundred years forward* will be held as part of the **University's 100th founding anniversary celebrations**, Comenius University in Bratislava, 15-16 November 2018

We will be pleased to promote anniversary events of other Member Universities planned for the forthcoming and following academic years.

UNICA ACTIVITIES 2017-2018



INTERNATIONALISATION & MOBILITY



- **UNICA IRO meeting 2018**, King's College London, **17-18 April 2018**
- Preparation of the UNICA IRO meeting 2019, *Host University and meeting dates to be announced*
- UNICA informal meeting & reception at EAIE Annual Conference 2018, Geneva, **13 September 2018** (*date to be confirmed*)
- 8th UNICA PR & Communication Workshop, University of Cyprus, **4-5 October 2018** (*dates to be confirmed*)
- CP/IRO meeting during the UNICA GA 2017, ELTE Budapest, **16 November 2017**
- CP/IRO meeting during the UNICA GA 2018, Comenius University in Bratislava, **15 November 2018**

- Maintenance and redesign of the **IMOTION Staffmobility.eu platform**
- Maintenance and regular updates of the **UNICA Summer & Winter Schools Portal: unicasummerschools.eu, unicawinterschools.eu**

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



ACADEMIC REFUGE (Strategic Partnership to Promote Core Academic Values and Welcome Refugees and Threatened Academics to European Campuses)

Under Erasmus+ (KA+ Strategic partnerships)

Project Period: 01/09/2016 – 31/08/2019

Relevant UNICA working group: International Relations Officers, EduLAB

Coordinator: University of Oslo (UNICA member)

Partners: UNICA, University of Ljubljana (UNICA member), Scholars At Risk Network

UNICA's role: Active contribution to all deliverables of the project, including organisation of the staff training week, design of the staff week curriculum and the handbook on values in HE.

Aim: This project **aims to improve the capacity** of European universities to **assist refugees and threatened academics on campus**. The project also **strives to promote and raise greater awareness** of the **importance of academic freedom and other academic values** in the Higher Education sector, the consequences for society at large when such freedom is repressed, and the steps to be made to protect higher education values.

Website: <http://www.uio.no/english/about/global/globally-engaged/academic-refuge/>



EuNIT - European Project Design and Management in the South Mediterranean Region

Under Erasmus+ KA2: Capacity Building in Higher Education

Project period: 15/10/2016 – 30/09/2019

Relevant UNICA Working Group: International Relations Officers, UNICA-MED

Coordinator: Téthys – Euro-Mediterranean Universities' Network

Partners: Université d'Aix Marseille, University of Split, Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis, UNIMED, University of Messina, Sapienza University of Rome (UNICA member), University of Barcelona, University of Santiago de Compostela, Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Yarmouk University, Antonine University, University of Balamand, Saint Joseph University, Misurata University, University of Tripoli, University of Zawia, Ministry of HE and Scientific Research (Libya), Association of Arab Universities, Split-Dalmatia County (Croatia), Ministry of HE and Scientific Research (Jordan), Ministry of Education and HE (Lebanon), UNICA (Associated Partner)

Aim: Supporting the Internationalisation of HEIs in the South Mediterranean region (focusing on Jordan, Lebanon and Libya) and increasing the participation of universities from these countries in international cooperation and research projects.

UNICA's role: Dissemination (as Associated Partner)



EDUCATION

- **EduLAB meeting 2017: *Innovation in Teaching and Employability***, University of Lausanne, **30 November - 1 December 2017**
- Preparation of the **EduLAB meeting 2018**, National Research University Higher School of Economics (Moscow), **6-7 December 2018 (dates to be confirmed)**





RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



- **Conference “Shaping the social impact of European research”** (in the framework of the UNICA-SGroup-Compostela Group joint annual conferences), Brussels – Wielkopolska Region Brussels Office, **6 November 2017**
- **12th UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers meeting** and a joint session for Vice-Rectors Research and UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers, Brussels – Vrije Universiteit Brussel (U-Residence), **7 November 2017**
- **13th UNICA EU Research Liaison Officers meeting**, University of Belgrade, *October/November 2018 - dates to be confirmed*
- **2nd Coimbra Group-UNICA joint workshop for doctoral candidates: *Navigate your career!***, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, **15-18 October 2017**
- Preparation of the 3rd Coimbra Group-UNICA joint workshop for doctoral candidates: *Navigate your career!*, **Centre for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, April 2019** (*exact dates to be confirmed*)
- **9th UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS**, Centre for Advanced Academic Studies of the University of Zagreb in Dubrovnik, **2-5 September 2018**

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



UZDOC 2.0. - Furthering the quality of doctoral education at Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan

Erasmus+ Programme (KA2: Capacity Building in Higher Education)

Relevant UNICA working group: Doctoral Education

Project Period: 15/10/2016- 14/10/2019

Aim: Although significant steps have been made toward the **modernization and alignment of Uzbek doctoral education with the European system**, there are still many challenges to be tackled. Building on the outcomes of the former UZDOC project, UZDOC 2.0. will aim at **furthering the quality of doctoral education** at Uzbek partner HE institutions and **strengthening the implementation of doctoral education reforms** in Uzbekistan.

Coordinator: UNICA

Partners: Université libre de Bruxelles, Eötvös Loránd University (both UNICA members), Polytechnic University of Turin, University of Granada, Tashkent Financial Institute, Namangan State University, Tashkent Chemical-Technological institute, Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture, Karakalpak State University, Karshi State University, Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service

Specific project objectives:

- To improve the capacity of Uzbekistan HEIs for supporting doctoral education, in line with the state-of-the-art EHEA developments in the area of doctoral education
- To raise the capacity of Uzbekistan HEIs in implementing national standards for quality assurance in doctoral education
- To increase the capacity of academic and non-academic human resources in Uzbekistan HEIs to contribute toward the implementation of the reforms of doctoral education
- To improve the collaboration between the academic and business sector and industry in Uzbekistan, reducing the skills gap between doctorate holders and the business sector.

Website: www.uzdoc.eu



POLICY & STRATEGY

Meeting of Chairs of UNICA Working Groups

- **First meeting of Chairs of UNICA Working Groups**, Brussels (UNICA office), first half of 2018
(exact date to be confirmed)

Informal Rectors meetings

- **Informal UNICA Rectors meeting & reception** on the occasion of the EUA Annual Conference, University of Zurich, **4 April 2018**
(exact venue to be confirmed)

Rectors Seminars

- **Rectors Seminar: *Philanthropy for responsible research and education in European Universities***, University of Cyprus, **24-25 October 2017**
- **UNICA General Assembly 2017 Seminar: *The social dimension of higher education and the social responsibility of universities: experiences and challenges***, ELTE Budapest, **17 November 2017**



- **Rectors Seminar: *Networking of networks: Synergy of partnership***, as part of the University's 210th founding anniversary celebrations, University of Belgrade, April/May 2018 (*exact dates to be confirmed*)
- **Rectors Seminar on Open Access policies**, Université libre de Bruxelles, **13-14 September 2018** (*dates to be confirmed*)
- **UNICA-Coimbra Group-Europaeum Rectors Seminar: *Legacy of Democracy, Humanism and Responsibility in the framework of the 100th founding anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic***, Charles University, **24-25 October 2018**
- **UNICA General Assembly 2018 Seminar: *Universities in Europe: From hundred years back to hundred years forward***, Comenius University in Bratislava, **16 November 2018**
- Preparation of the **Rectors Seminar: *(Re)Structure(ing) of Universities***, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, *February 2019, exact dates to be confirmed*
- **9th UNICA Scholarly Communication Seminar**, Université libre de Bruxelles, 13 September 2018 (*date to be confirmed*)

EUROPEAN PROJECTS



LEAD: Governance and Academic Leadership of Chinese and European Universities in the Context of Innovation and Internationalisation

Under Erasmus+ KA2: Capacity Building in Higher Education

Project period: 01/11/2015 – 31/10/2017

Coordinator: Vrije Universiteit Brussel (UNICA member)

Co-coordinator: UNICA

Partners: Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Middle East Technical University (both UNICA members), University of Tampere, Peking University, Tongji University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), National Academy of Education Administration (NAEA), Yunnan Normal University

UNICA's role: Co-Coordinator, Developing training modules for university leadership, Dissemination

Aim: Through the development of training modules, site visits, academic leadership seminars, job shadowing & other training activities, the project aims at improving the competences of academic leadership in governance for innovation and modernisation of Higher Education, facilitating the Europe-China cooperation in education and research, and supporting HEIs from both Europe and China in strategic planning and change management.

Activities:

- Seminars and training/coaching on university governance and leadership for academic leaders
- Job shadowing
- Round tables on HEI academic leadership
- University site visits for academic leaders focusing on university governance related issues

Website: www.lead-project.org



MISSION & LINK WITH SOCIETY

- **8th UNICA GREEN Workshop**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, **21-23 March 2018**
- **3rd UNICA 'University, Culture and the City' meeting**,
(Host University & dates to be confirmed)



EUROPEAN PROJECTS



SAVES2: Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings 2

Under Horizon 2020 Programme

Project Period: 01/05/2017-31/10/2020

Relevant UNICA working group: UNICA GREEN

Coordinator: National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS-UK)

Partners: UNICA, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, University of Cyprus, University of Bucharest, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (all four UNICA members), Technical University of Crete, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Ecovisum LTD, Union of Students in Ireland, Monfort University

UNICA's role: Leader of External Communication

Aim: Building on the achievements of SAVES project, SAVES2 aims to promote sustainable energy behaviours among over 219,000 university students in 7 countries, with a special attention dedicated to fuel poverty and practical ways of reducing students' exposure to this issue.

Website: <https://saves.nus.org.uk/>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017 & 2018

UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

Eötvös Loránd University Budapest,
16-17 November 2017



UNICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018 held as part of the Comenius University's 100th founding anniversary celebrations

Comenius University in Bratislava,
15-16 November 2018



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018

- late February/early March 2018 (*exact date to be confirmed*)
- May 2018 (*exact date to be confirmed*)
- September 2018 (*exact date to be confirmed*)
- Comenius University in Bratislava, 14 & 16 November 2018

COOPERATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS & ORGANISATIONS

In the year 2016-2017, UNICA aims to continue and to enhance the cooperation with peer university networks and other Higher Education organisations:

COLLABORATION WITH THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION (EUA):

UNICA AS COLLECTIVE ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- in the framework of the **5th Euro-Arab (AECHE) Conference in Higher Education** (University of Murcia, 20-22 June 2017) and the **UNICA-MED** initiative
- with the EUA Council of Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE) in the context of the **UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS**

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

- with **Scholars At Risk** (UNICA as affiliate member) in ACADEMIC REFUGE project and other joint initiatives related to academic freedom, ethics and values in international partnerships
- with **European University Foundation, Coimbra Group of Universities, SGroup European Universities' Network** and **YERUN-Young Research Universities Network** in the framework of the Open University Alliance (UNICA as part of the Steering Committee), a spin-off initiative of Erasmus Without Paper aimed at open source software movement at European HEIs
- with **Coimbra Group of Universities** in the context of the Coimbra Group-UNICA joint workshops for doctoral candidates
- with **International Diplomatic and Consular Circle (Cercle international diplomatique et consulaire, CIDIC)** on the Diplomatic, Economic, Academic Missions to the countries holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- with **International Association of Universities (IAU)** on projects related to open access, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development at universities (UNICA as IAU member)

- with **PRIDE Network – Professionals in Doctoral Education** in the context of the UNICA PhD MASTER CLASS
- with **European Women Rectors Association (EWORA)** on initiatives aimed at strengthening women’s representation at decision-making levels of higher education and academic research
- with **Erasmus Student Network** and the **European Students’ Union** on initiatives related to the social impact of internationalization and raising inclusiveness of international student mobility programmes



UNICA brings together 46 Member Universities from 35 European capitals



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

ALBANIA

Tirana University
Polytechnic University of Tirana

AUTRIA

Universität Wien

BELGIUM

Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Université Libre de Bruxelles

BULGARIA

Sofia University
St. Kliment Ohridski

CROATIA

University of Zagreb

CYPRUS

University of Cyprus

CZECH REPUBLIC

Charles University

DENMARK

University of Copenhagen

ESTONIA

Tallinn University
Tallinn University of Technology

FINLAND

University of Helsinki

FRANCE

Université Sorbonne
Nouvelle - Paris 3
Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Université Paris-Dauphine

FYR OF MACEDONIA

Ss. Cyril and Methodius
University of Skopje

GERMANY

Freie Universität Berlin
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

GREECE

National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens

HUNGARY

Eötvös Loránd University
of Budapest

IRELAND

University College Dublin

ICELAND

University of Iceland

ITALY

Università degli Studi di
Roma La Sapienza
Università degli Studi di
Roma Tor Vergata
Università degli Studi di
Roma Tre

LATVIA

University of Latvia

LITHUANIA

Vilnius University

LUXEMBOURG

University of Luxembourg

THE NETHERLANDS

Universiteit van Amsterdam

NORWAY

University of Oslo

POLAND

University of Warsaw

PORTUGAL

Universidade de Lisboa
Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

ROMANIA

University of Bucharest

RUSSIA

Lomonosov Moscow State
University
Higher School of Economics
Moscow

SERBIA

University of Belgrade

SLOVAKIA

Comenius University in
Bratislava

SLOVENIA

University of Ljubljana

SPAIN

Universidad Complutense
de Madrid

SWEDEN

Stockholm University

SWITZERLAND

Université de Lausanne

TURKEY

Middle East Technical
University
Ankara University

UNITED KINGDOM

King's College London

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