



# EU RESEARCH LIAISON OFFICERS WORKING GROUP

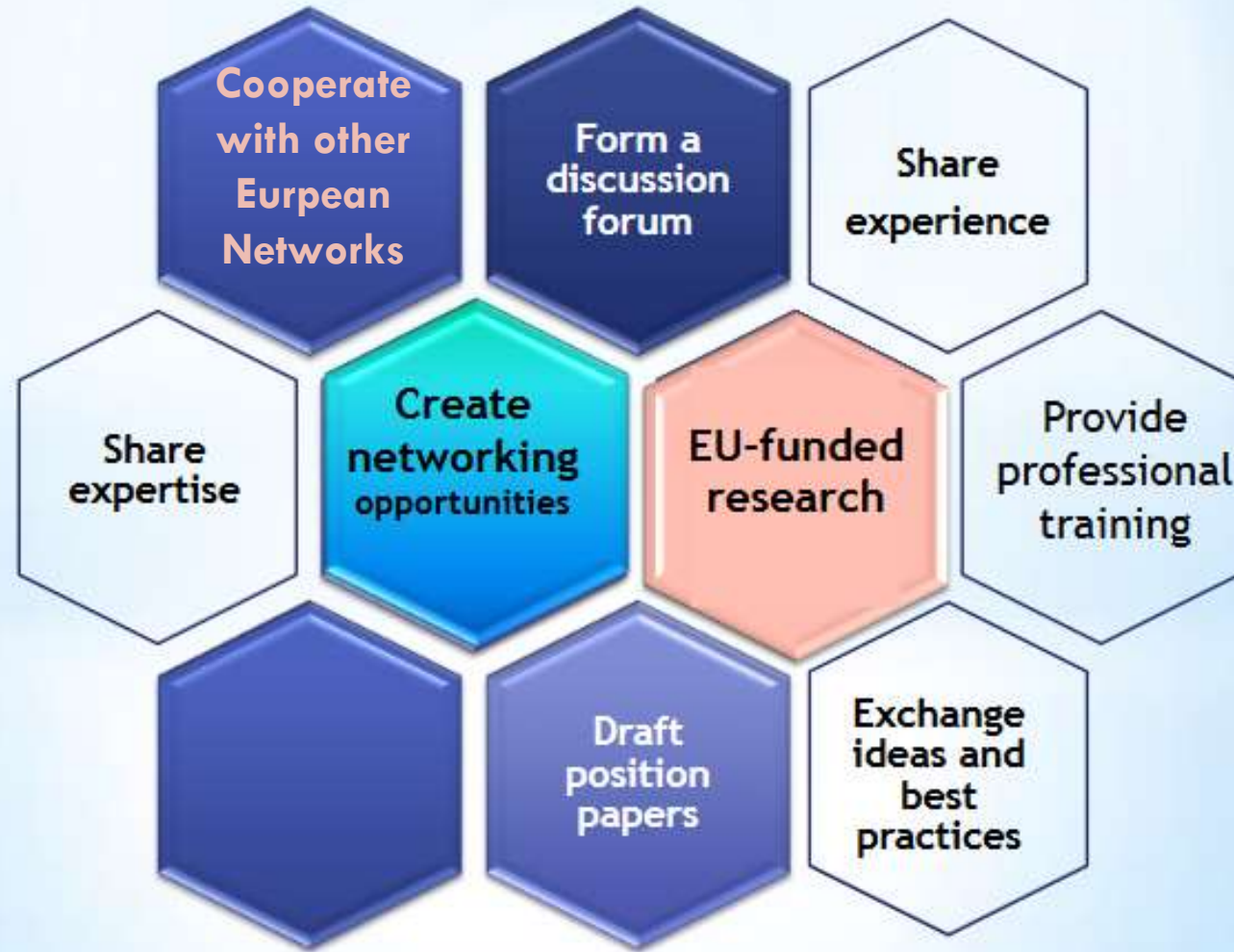
2ND UNICA WG CHAIRS' MEETING

BRUSSELS, 6.02.2019

# WHO ARE WE? FACTS AND FIGURES

- **1 of 13 UNICA working groups**
  - **Founded in 2006 in Stockholm**
- **Research Liaison Officers from 51 universities across Europe supporting researches through the whole project life cycle**
  - **From the proposal to the final report**
  - **13 Annual meetings**

# WHAT WE DO?



# WHAT FOR?

## Professional Discussion forum

- Looking for joint solutions to overcome common difficulties resulting from the rigid EU research funding rules & schemes
- Administrative, financial & legal aspects

## Networking

- Looking for professional development opportunities via „office-to-office” staff exchange (job shadowing)
- Providing professional training by the invited experts

## Position papers

- **Advocating changes of the EU research funding rules & schemes**
- Looking for recognition of the profession of the EU Research Liaison Officers

# 13 ANNUAL MEETINGS

2018 University of Belgrade

**2019 ?**

**University of Edinburgh**

# 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAIN PHOCUS

## I. What's on the horizon?

New Framework Programme & 'breaking silos' between European research and education programmes

- EUN' initiative under Erasmus+ Programme (pilot) – strengthening strategic partnerships between universities across the EU and links between the EHE and ER Areas (UW)
- Horizon Europe: The "big picture" and latest updates by **Renzo Tomellini, EC DG R&I**
- Institutional preparations for Horizon Europe at VUB

## II. Open Science

- Plan S – assumed impact (by VUB)

# 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAIN PHOCUS

## III. Burning issues for group discussion and **sharing best practices**

- Basic remuneration in Horizon 2020 (UB)
- Second wave of simplification in H2020: Lump-Sum pilot (UR Tor Vergata)
- New widening instrument – individual fellowships (UW)
- Mitigating the impact of Brexit (UEdin)
- **Project risk management** - Identification of potential risks: **financial, legal, technical, administrative**
- **Gender component in research programmes: How to address it, tips and tricks (SU)**
- **Research services at centralized vs. decentralized universities: How to make it work? (UR Tor Vergata)**
- **Science outreach activities (UL)**

# 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAIN PHOCUS

## IV. CURRENT BIG TOPICS - ERC GRANTS

Portability of ERC grants

ERC statistics : ERC grantees staying vs those moving

ERC grants and the Brexit "factor",,

Resubmission of ERC grants: Where to find other types of funding?

Portability of ERC grants: Institutional policies to attract and to retain ERC grantees (SU)

Internal support for ERC candidates (UL)

## SPECIAL GUESTS:

- ERC grantee: **Prof. Sofija STEFANOVIĆ**, BioSense Institute, Novi Sad & University of Belgrade
- **MATTEO RAZZANELLI**, Scientific Council Unit, European Research Council Executive Agency (web conference)

**YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO JOIN OUR ANNUAL MEETINGS!**



# ADVOCATING CHANGES OF THE EU FUNDING RULES & SCHEMES

- Position papers
- Enhanced cooperation with other European Networks for the best EU R&I Programmes

# POSITION PAPERS

1. Response to the EU Green Paper: *From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding* (2011)
2. Recommendations regarding the six-monthly financial reporting sent to the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU (2011)
3. Recommendations to the EC on the Participants Portal (2011)
4. UNICA universities' letters on simplification measures in H2020 sent to the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU (2013)
5. Recommendations for the improvement of the EU FPs Grants Management System (submitted to SyGma Advisory Group for the new Research and Innovation Grant Management Services for Horizon 2020 accessed through the Participant Portal ) (2014)

# JOINING FORCES FOR HORIZON EUROPE



# JOINING FORCES FOR HORIZON EUROPE 2020-2027



## Universities united for the best Horizon Europe

In the wake of the European Commission's release of its outline for the Ninth Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon Europe), 14 European associations representing universities united to respond to the proposal. For universities, creating the best Horizon Europe possible is paramount as the programme is a key enabler in achieving European ambitions and strengthening values. By reinforcing research and innovation, Horizon Europe will impact the daily life of European citizens, European society as a whole and the European economy.

# JOINING FORCES FOR HORIZON EUROPE 2020-2027

We therefore ask the European Parliament and the Council to support Horizon Europe and to incorporate the following necessary changes in order to ensure that it will fulfil the EU's ambitions:

- Increase the total budget.
- Review the budget allocation.
- Put the realisation of the European Research Area at the centre of Horizon Europe across all pillars.
- Foresee better linkages between research, innovation and education.
- **Include a human and societal reflection**, as well as options for fundamental research, in all clusters and missions.

**#UniversitiesForHorizonEU**

# EXPANDING COOPERATION?

## ➤ Cooperation offer from the **ROSE Network** - Research on Societies in Europe

- A new initiative – established only in Feb. 2018 at the University of Mainz but very active
- Target group: EU liaison officers at German Universities
- Major goals are to contribute to the creation of the future framework program for research and innovation – Horizon Europe and strengthen the role of SSH in national and European research agendas
- Recommendations on next FP9 (June 2018) & organised related workshop in Brussels with EC representatives (September)
- Common grounds – Impact of Social Sciences in the broad perspective – science policies and programmes addressing citizens' concerns in line with UNICA's conference on "Shaping the social impact of European research and with the seminar on „Research Policies & Urban Challenges”

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Contact details:



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