



## UNIVERSITY, CULTURE AND THE CITY GROUP

Founded in 2016

### CORE GROUP



### MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

- ▶ Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
- ▶ Université libre de Bruxelles
- ▶ Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- ▶ King's College London
- ▶ University of Warsaw
- ▶ University of Luxembourg
- ▶ Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

### CHAIRS

2018: João Mario **GRILO**, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

2016-2017: Francisco **CARAMELO**, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa

### Strategic value & mission

The UNICA “University, Culture and the City” Group has a special strategic importance for UNICA as it **focuses on the common characteristics of UNICA Member Universities, namely: their location in capital cities and regions, and the role they play in social, cultural, economic life, and in urban and regional development.**

UNICA “University, Culture and the City” aims to be a **Forum gathering representatives of member universities, of municipalities, the cities’ cultural actors, and citizens.**

### Short story & initiatives

The group was created in 2016 on the **initiative of the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa and the Université libre de Bruxelles**, following the **1st “University, Culture and the City” Conference, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, 16-17 May 2016.**

The Conference collected practices and experiences in embedding culture inside universities, as well as showcased examples of successful cooperation between Universities and cultural Institutions. The involvement of Universities as active stakeholders in the development of cultural activities in the cities was one of the main discussion topics.

As a result of the 1st Conference, the Rectors of the Université libre de Bruxelles and the Universidade NOVA de Lisboa and the UNICA President signed the

### UNICA LISBON DECLARATION

**which set the objectives for the newly established working group:**

- ▶ promoting a joint reflection on cultural policies,
- ▶ strengthening the role of leadership in promoting, creating and disseminating culture,
- ▶ maintaining an ongoing dialogue with cultural actors,
- ▶ developing interaction with the municipal authorities of European capitals.

**A 2nd Conference, “University as an Urban Cultural Institute”, was hosted by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, 29-31 May 2017.**

The Conference focused on how cultural diversity can be implemented at universities and how scientific research and academic culture can open up to the city and become a significant factor in urban and cultural life. Participants had the opportunity to discuss the interaction between cultural and academic policies, and reflect on the core values lying at the heart of University-City cooperation, in the presence of the Mayor of Sofia.

## "UNIVERSITY, CULTURE AND THE CITY" CONFERENCES' TOPICS



### 1<sup>st</sup> Conference

Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, 16-17 May 2016

- ▶ Universities and Cultural Activities
- ▶ Students as cultural agents
- ▶ University's role in shaping the cultural strategies of Cities

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, 29-31 May 2017

- ▶ Core Values at the Heart of the University, Culture and the City Cooperation
- ▶ Examples from the Capital Cities of Europe
- ▶ Interaction Between Cultural and Academic Policies
- ▶ University and Cultural Actors
- ▶ Informed Cultural Policies: The Role of Cultural Research for the City and for the University

THE UNIVERSITY  
AS AN URBAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE  
2nd UNICA 'University, Culture and the City' Conference  
SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI, SOFIA, BULGARIA



29-31 MAY 2017

## CONTACT



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Group webpage on the UNICA website:

<http://www.unica-network.eu/page/university-culture-city>