



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

May 2022

UNICA Activity Report

Past & Upcoming Activities

March 2020 - April 2022

Prof. Luciano Saso
UNICA President



www.unica-network.eu

Coordinators of UNICA WGs

Since June 2021

May 2022



Minna Koutaniemi
University of Helsinki, Finland
International Relations Officers & IRO
Observer



Romita Iucu
University of Bucharest,
Romania
UNICA EduLab



Maryam Hansson Edalat
Stockholm University, Sweden
EURLO & UNICA Research



Matthew Lawson
University of Edinburgh, United
Kingdom
UNICA Green & SDGs



Raul Aguilera
Universidad Carlos III de
Madrid, Spain
UNICA Scholarly
Communication



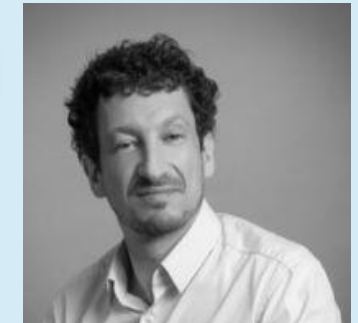
Andreas Degkwitz
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
Germany
UNICA Scholarly
Communication



Ophélie Boffa
Université libre de
Bruxelles, Belgium
UNICA PR & Communication



Katarzyna Zofia Wojnar
University of Warsaw, Poland
UNICA & the City



Tobias Reckling
University of Vienna,
Austria
UNICA & the City

UNICA ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

48 online events
(among other informal group meetings)

Approx. 5.000 participants
in UNICA events

38 UNICA Members in European
University Alliances

New website



6 statements endorsed

7 UNICA Publications

3 EU projects completed

+1 European funded project in
Mindfulness for Students
(Eramus+ KA2)



UNICA ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

General Assemblies & Rectors Seminars	3 events	UNICA Research	8 events
	Over 320 participants		Approx. 850 participants
Student Activities	5 events	UNICA Green & SDGs	8 events
	Over 1000 participants		Over 750 participants
Working groups		Scholarly Communication	2 events
IRO	8 events		Approx. 270 participants
	Over 400 participants	PR & Communication	2 events
EduLAB	6 events		Approx. 200 participants
	Over 300 participants	UNICA & the City	6 events
			Over 560 participants

UNICA ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

TOPICS ADDRESSED AT UNICA EVENTS

TOPIC	Nr Events	TOPIC	Nr Events
Climate Action & SDGs	9	Career Management	3
Impact of COVID/ post-COVID universities	7	Research Methods and Approaches	3
Mobility	6	Citizen Science	2
Pedagogical Methods and Approaches	6	Digitalisation of Erasmus+	2
European Universities	7	Amuni Relations	1
Intellectual Property & Open Science	4	Cities and Culture	1
Forced Academic Displacement	3	Doctoral Education	1
		Research Ethics	1

UNICA and the European Universities Initiative

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

75%

of UNICA's eligible members participate in the EUI

39 members in European University Alliances

MOST RECENT:

National Technical University of Ukraine joins ENHANCE University Alliance as associate partner

7 events with European University Alliances since 2020



UNICA and Sapienza University of Rome webinar "Supporting students and scholars at risk: efforts and good practices of UNICA and CIVIS universities"

online
European Universities



UNICA EduLAB & CIVIS webinar: New European curricula for the new European Degrees. From bulk learning to modularisation

Online
UNICA EduLAB European Universities



IRO Group workshop "European Universities alliances and IROs role"

online
International Relations Officers
European Universities



UNICA Rectors' Seminar "The Future of the European Universities Alliances"

online
Rectors Seminars European Universities



European Universities Initiative: Sharing good practices, lessons learned and plans among UNICA Members

European Universities Rectors Seminars



UNICA General Assembly 2020 & Rectors Seminar

Online
Rectors Seminars General Assemblies
European Universities

UNICA General Assemblies

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

Successful online General Assemblies!

November 2020

30th UNICA General Assembly & Rectors Seminar:

“Three Decades of UNICA: achievements, challenges and opportunities for European Universities in the COVID-19 era”

Programme:

- ✓ 1990 - 2020: UNICA & Europe, two success stories
- ✓ Challenges and opportunities for universities in the COVID-19 era
- ✓ The future relevance of Higher Education for Society

With speakers:

- Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner, Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- Tanja Börzel, Jean Monnet Chair, Director of the Centre for European Integration and the Centre of Excellence “The EU and its Citizens”, Freie Universität Berlin
- Ulrich Grothus, President of ACA



Many young people in Europe take peace for granted. It is the responsibility of Universities to remind them of previous crisis in the continent and that peace is a concept that must not be neglected



Luciano Saso, President of UNICA



“ These may be challenging times but, by working together, we can ensure that Higher Education (...) emerges stronger and more connected than ever before. And organizations like UNICA go a long way to achieving this objective

**Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner
Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth**

UNICA General Assemblies

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

Successful online General Assemblies!

June 2021

31st UNICA General Assembly & Rectors Seminar

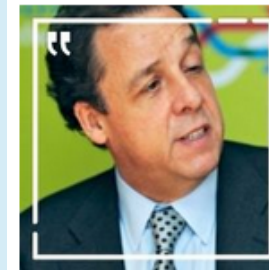
“The impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in Europe: challenges and opportunities”

Programme:

- ✓ The impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in Europe: Current Challenges
- ✓ The impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education in Europe: Future Perspectives

With speaker:

- Xavier Prats Monné, Senior International Advisor on Public Policy, Education, and European affairs; former Director-General for Education and Culture and former Director-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission



Xavier Prats Monné

Senior international Advisor on Public Policy, Education, and European Affairs; former Director-General for Education and Culture; and former Director-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

"What's the university of the 21st century after the pandemic? The needs of society are far more dependent on knowledge than ever - this is where the mission of the university takes on a new meaning. It needs a more active role in the public debate, aspire to a greater impact on society."

EU Funded Projects

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

ONGOING

Mindfulness Practices for Students and Society (MP4s)

Support students to tackle their emotional difficulties through mindfulness practices and training

Creation of the first Mindfulness Toolbox for Faculties and Students

Elaboration of SIT4PLANET, a generic syllabus that enables university stakeholders to embed mindfulness practices



Teaching in Higher Education Effectively via Eye-tracking (THEE)

Improve teaching and classroom management skills by studying eye movements

Eye movements of lecturers and students during class will be recorded with special glasses.

Computer-aided learning content will be designed and developed to facilitate the rapid transfer of knowledge and skills



EU Funded Projects

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

COMPLETED

Teaching With Erasmus+ (TWE+)

Mapping of innovative pedagogical tools and methods to support the teachers going on mobilities

Platform with listing of teaching mobilities

Recommendations for policy making

TWE+
TEACH WITH ERASMUS+

2018-2021

PROJECT PARTNERS

COORDINATOR

Eötvös Loránd University

EUF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

UNICA Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

UniLaSalle Terre & Sciences

Universidad de Alcalá

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

SAVES2

Minimisation of the carbon footprint in students' accommodation

CO2 saving (tonnes): 2,373

% saving, compared to baseline: 6.78% (average)

SAVES2

2017-2021

PROJECT PARTNERS

COORDINATOR

nus national union of students

USI Union of Students in Ireland

Ecovisum Passionate Vision for Sustainable Energy

UNICA Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

BOLAGIA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

Technical University of Crete

University of Cyprus

VILNIUS TECH

HELLENIC REPUBLIC National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

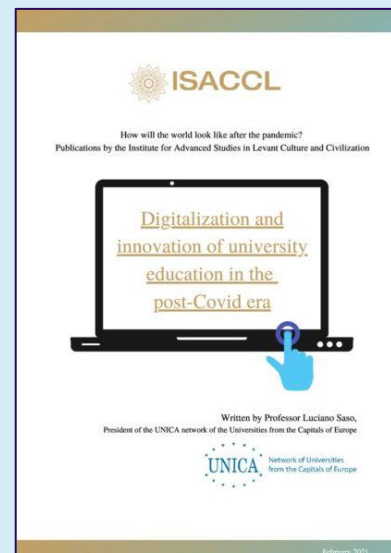
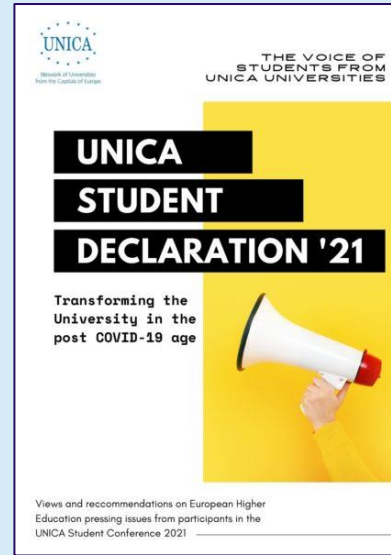
UNIVERSITATEA DIN BUCUREȘTI

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101019184

PUBLICATIONS

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

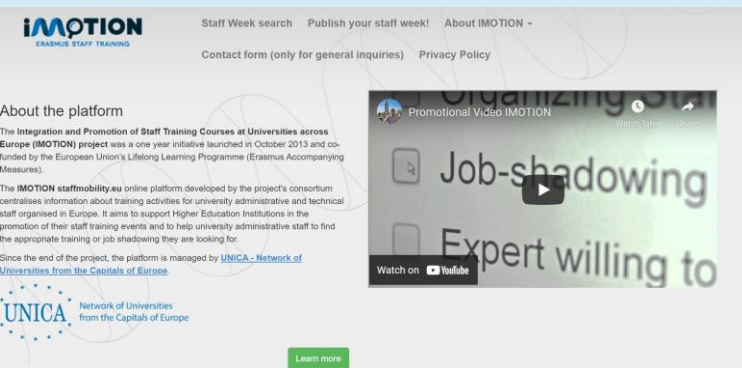


UNICA Platforms

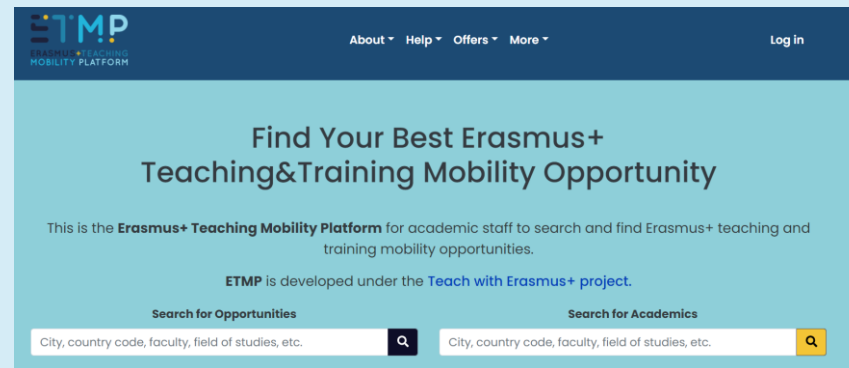
March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

For non-academic staff



For academic staff



For students



UNICA participation in recent external events

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

January 2022

Professor Luciano Saso intervention at the Conference 'Models for Internationalization of HE'

“This is a very important moment for European Higher Education, probably the most important after the Bologna process (...)

*We had a strong push by the initiative itself, because there was a **strong engagement by the leadership** of universities and of the members states, which is unprecedented. At the same time, **COVID** has also pushed for the acceleration of the process of digitalization, creating a momentum to discuss the implementation of virtual and blended mobility and the creation of European degrees.”*



UNICA participation in recent external events

March 2020 - April 2022

May 2022

April 2022

Hanna Snellman (UNICA's Steering Committee) at the EUA Annual Conference 2022

"As a collective of universities, the values that feed into UNICA's mission and vision can't be perceived as mere expectations, but a collective commitment that guides action."

eua EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION



May 2022

Professor Luciano Saso at the EWORA 2nd Workshop

Envisioning the Future of Higher Education: Expectations, Opportunities and Challenges for Leadership

Plenary Session II

Chair: Inga Žalėnienė, Rector, Mykolas Romeris University

Speakers

Hanne Leth Andersen, Rector, Roskilde University

Yvonne Galligan, Director (Vice-Rector), Technological University Dublin

Luciano Saso, President, UNICA

Fernando Leon Garcia, President, IAUP and CETYS University

EWORA EUROPEAN
WOMEN
RECTORS
ASSOCIATION



12 MAY

UNICA & the City Webinar “How European University Alliances address the question of well-being”, promoted by Semmelweis University in the framework of the EUniWell FestiWell

17 MAY

UNICA - Eutopia Train webinar “Successful strategies in funding applications for citizen Science”

26 - 27 MAY

UNICA EduLAB European Conference “Design of European degrees - Building flexible pathways beyond academic cycles”

9 JUNE

UNICA Research webinar “How to support researchers when coordinating EU-funded projects?”

15 JUNE

UNICA Scholarly Communication Webinar “Insights on the impact of transformative agreements”, promoted by Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

29 JUNE - 1 JULY

2022 UNICA General Assembly and Rectors Seminar “Leading Universities in times of crisis and change”, hosted by University College Dublin

SEPTEMBER (TBA)

UNICA informal IRO reception in the framework of the EAIE conference 2022, Barcelona

OCTOBER (TBA)

UNICA Scholarly Communication Webinar on Research data management, promoted by the University of Vienna

Thank you!

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LIST OF ALL EVENTS (Mar 2020- Apr 2022)

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May 2022

Date	Meeting/ event	Working Group/ Project/ Area	Theme	Participants
April 2022	UNICA IRO Group online workshop with DG EAC “Digital Erasmus+” – IROs meet ITs	IRO	Digital Erasmus+	74
March 2022	UNICA Green & SDGs webinar “Approaches to Greening Academic Travel	UNICA Green & SDGs	Climate action	86
February 2022	UNICA Green & SDGs webinar “Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Academic Networks”	UNICA Green & SDGs	SDGs	84
February 2022	UNICA Green & SDGs Climate Action Roundtables	UNICA Green & SDGs	Climate action	20/25 per session
February 2022	UNICA IRO Group Meeting	IRO	University post-COVID + European University Alliances	46
February 2022	UNICA-Eutopia Train webinar & workshop: “How to engage citizens in your research?”	UNICA & the City	Citizen science	169
February 2022	McGraw Hill, CIVIS and UNICA virtual symposium on Innovative Medical Education in the Digital Era	EduLAB	Pedagogical Methods and Approaches	N/A
January 2022	UNICA-Eutopia panel on research ethics promoted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Stockholm University	UNICA Research	Research ethics	156
January 2022	UNICA Doctoral Education Webinar “The impact of international experience in the academic careers of Doctoral candidates”	Doctoral Education	Doctoral education	237

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December 2021	UNICA and Sapienza University of Rome webinar on “Supporting students and scholars at risk: efforts and good practices of UNICA and CIVIS universities”	UNICA & the City	Forced academic displacement	58
December 2021	UNICA EduLAB and CIVIS webinar: New European Curriculum for the New European Degrees. From bulk learning to modularisation	EduLAB	Pedagogical Methods and Approaches	130
November 2021	Gender equality plans in Horizon Europe- Recommendations for successful implementation	UNICA Research	Research/ SDGs	120
November 2021	UNeCC and UNICA Joint Webinar: UniverCities and Culture	UNICA & the City	Cities and culture	78
November 2021	IRO Group workshop “European University Alliances and IROs role”	IRO	European University Alliances	40
November 2021	Webinar series: the response of capital city universities in Europe and Asia-Pacific to the UN SDGs	UNICA Green & SDGs	SDGs	N/A
October 2021	10th UNICA Scholarly Communication online seminar	Scholarly Communication	Open Science	155
September 2021	UNICA Rectors Seminar “The future of the European University Alliances”	Rectors Seminar	European University Alliances	138
September 2021	EPO- UNICA event: Introducing the EPO and its European Patent Academy offer to ÚNICA	UNICA Research	Intellectual Property	46

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September 2021	UNICA – SGroup webinar: Global Alumni Relations and models of Alumni Services & engagement as a strategic task of HEIs	PR & Communication (Alumni Relations)	Alumni Relations	N/A
September 2021	Digitalisation of the Erasmus+ programme: strategies and tools	IRO	Digital Erasmus+	40
September 2021	M8 Alliance – UNICA webinar “The need for integration of migration health aspects in the education of health professionals”	UNICA & the City	Academic forced displacement	N/A
July 2021	UNICA Student Conference “Transforming your university in the post COVID-19”	Student Activities	Mobility, post-COVID university, digital learning, social impact of universities	150
July 2021	TWE+ closing conference: Tomorrow’s innovation for a truly European teaching experience	IRO/ TWE+	Mobility	N/A
June 2021	31st UNICA General Assembly and Rectors’ Seminar	General Assembly/ Rectors Seminar	Post-COVID university	70
June 2021	Joint UNICA-IAU Webinar: Higher Education Leadership Practices and Leaders for a Sustainable Future	UNICA Green & SDGs	SDGs	194
June 2021	TWE+ Project: Innovative Methodologies for mobile academics – an international pedagogical reverse conference	IRO/ TWE+	Mobility	N/A
May 2021	UNICA Student Webinars: Pharma and Biomedical Careers in Europe	Student Activities	Career	N/A

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May 2021	Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R) at UNICA member universities	UNICA Research	Research Methods and Approaches	71
April 2021	Academia & Industry: Innovation Models	UNICA Research	Innovation	137
Dec 2020 – Mar 2021	UNICA Green Webinars	UNICA Green & SDGs	SDGs	106
March 2021	EURLO & UNICA Research Webinar: Remote and Virtual labs	UNICA Research	Research Methods and Approaches	238
February 2021	UNICA Rectors’ Seminar: “Interdisciplinary and intersectoral education and research in modern universities”	EduLAB	Pedagogical Methods and Approaches	N/A
January 2021	UNICA- VUB webinar “Applying Open Science in Research Projects”	UNICA Research	Open Science	10
January 2021	H2020 project SAVES2 webinar	UNICA Green & SDGs/ SAVES2	Climate Action	57
December 2020	UNICA EduLAB Workshop: Innovative Pedagogies and virtual mobility in the post COVID-19 era	EduLAB	Mobility	126
December 2020	European Universities Initiative: Sharing good practices, lessons learned and plans among UNICA members	IRO	European University Alliances	144
November 2020	UNICA-Scholarly Communication joint meeting on Horizon Europe open science regulations	Scholarly Communication	Open Science	111
November 2020	Universities responding to forced displacement – Challenges and Opportunities	UNICA & the City	Forced academic displacement	73
November 2020	30th UNICA General Assembly and Rectors Seminar	General Assembly/ Rectors Seminar	European Universities/ Post-COVID University	108
October 2020	UNICA webinar “The Challenges of Modernisation of Higher Education: From Comenius to the Digital era”	EduLAB	Pedagogical Methods and Approaches	49

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October 2020	“Effectively fund inter and transdisciplinary research” UNICA – CESAER joint workshop	UNICA Research	Research Methods and Approaches	68
October 2020	9th UNICA PR and Communication online workshop	PR and Communication	Post-COVID University	130
October 2020	Webinar on COVID-19: Biomedical, Social and Legal aspects	Student Activities	Post-COVID university	332
October 2020	Teach With Erasmus+ project Stakeholder Event	IRO/ TWE+	Mobility	55
September 2020	The Role of Universities in Fostering High Quality Citizen Science	UNICA & the City	Citizen Science	183
September 2020	Webinar on SDGs strategies of universities and THE Impact Rankings	UNICA Green & SDGs	SDGs	190
June 2020	UNICA Student Webinar	Student Activities	Mobility, post-COVID university, digital learning, social impact of universities	400
June 2020	Webinar “Innovating HE pedagogy in turbulent times” (University of Bucharest, UNICA, CIVIS)	EduLAB	Pedagogical Methods and Approaches	N/A