

# Priorities and proposals for future UNICA research activities



# INTRODUCTION

As part of the UNICA network, we focus on connecting research with societal challenges, aligning with the ERA and Horizon Europe, while promoting open science as a catalyst for collaboration and knowledge sharing. Universities play a pivotal role in driving the green and digital transitions through interdisciplinary research, contributing to a sustainable and competitive Europe. Expanding global partnerships and celebrating research excellence remain key priorities, fostering innovation and enhancing the visibility of our institutions worldwide.



# UNICA OPEN SCIENCE GATEWAY

## Aligned with ERA Priorities:

The Gateway will act as a shared platform for research data, publications, and methodologies, adhering to FAIR principles—Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.

The Gateway will host UNICA scientific conferences and their outputs, providing a central location for accessing research presented at these events.



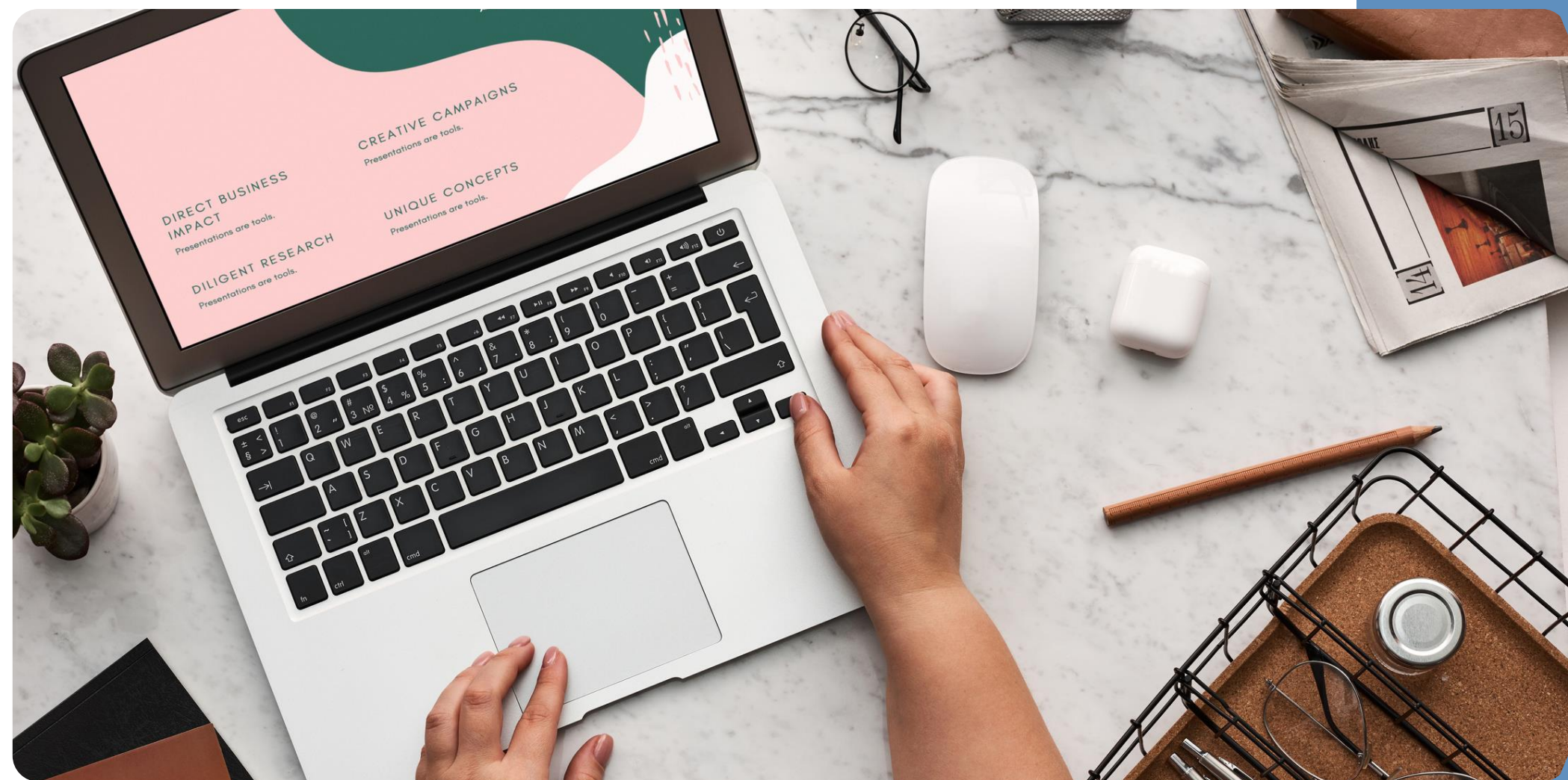
This initiative directly supports the ERA Action to promote open knowledge sharing and implement the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), which is a cornerstone of the ERA's efforts to advance open science and FAIR principles

# UNICA RESEARCHERS MEETING: THEMATIC RESEARCH CLUSTERS



Regular meetings will gather experts from member institutions to share findings, identify research gaps, and develop collaborative projects.

Through workshops, labs, and interdisciplinary panels, these clusters will foster innovation and generate high-impact research.



This initiative addresses ERA's priority of tackling societal challenges and aligns with Horizon Europe's focus areas of sustainability, digital transformation, and health innovation.





## UNICA Global Partnership Accelerator

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, this initiative will enhance UNICA's global footprint by fostering international collaborations.

By connecting institutions worldwide, the Accelerator will amplify the reach and impact of our research, fostering innovation and inclusivity on a global scale.

The Accelerator will build cross-continental networks in strategic research areas, develop joint degree programs, and organize global research expos.

This initiative aligns with Horizon Europe's ambition to strengthen Europe's role as a global research hub and with ERA's goal of promoting international cooperation.



# CONNECTION TO THE ICESS CONFERENCE



The International Conference on Economics and Social Sciences (ICESS) offers an unparalleled platform to support these initiatives. This conference, hosted by the [Bucharest University of Economic Studies](#), is dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and actionable research solutions.

The [UNICA Open Science Gateway](#) will benefit from ICESS by using its workshops to share best practices for open data and showcasing successful models of collaboration.

The [Thematic Research Clusters](#) will find a natural home in the ICESS program, where sessions on sustainability, digital transformation, and health can facilitate networking and co-creation.

The [Global Partnership Accelerator](#) will leverage ICESS's international audience, creating opportunities for partnerships and collaborations beyond Europe, ensuring that UNICA's global reach is expanded.



The Open Science Gateway, Thematic Research Clusters, and Global Partnership Accelerator—are pivotal for advancing UNICA's vision and aligning with Europe's strategic priorities.