Αγαπητοί συνάδελφοι,


Στο ενημερωτικό δελτίο της UNICA θα βρείτε πληροφορίες σχετικά με:

- Διεπιστημονικές και διατομεακές στρατηγικές στην εκπαίδευση και την έρευνα για την περαιτέρω ενίσχυση της συζήτησης γύρω από αυτές τις έννοιες και καινοτόμες προσεγγίσεις.
- Το πρώτο Σεμινάριο Πρυτάνεων της UNICA για το 2021 (διαθέσιμο στο YouTube)
- Επικείμενα Διαδικτυακά Σεμινάρια - Πράσινο Webinar της UNICA: «Κοινωνική και Αστική Ευθύνη. Υιοθετώντας μία ολιστική θεσμική προσέγγιση» (26/3) (11.00 - 12.30 CET)
- Φοιτητικό Συνέδριο UNICA 2021: «Μετασχηματισμός του Πανεπιστημίου στην εποχή μετά τον covid-19» (18-21/7)
- Ανασκόπηση του Διαδικτυακού Σεμιναρίου: «Φαρμακοβιομηχανίες και Βιοτεχνολογικές Καριέρες στην Ευρώπη, Μέρος 3ο»
- Πληροφορίες σχετικά με το Project TWE+ (Teach With Erasmus) της EUA

Νέα σχετικά με:

- Την Άνοδο των Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών στο Πανεπιστήμιο του Όσλο
- Το Forum Ενδιαφερόμενων Μερών Inspireurope και Philipp Schwartz 2021 που θα λάβει χώρα στις 26 & 27 Απριλίου
- Την Πρόσκληση για Εργασίες από το Ινστιτούτο Διεθνών Σχέσεων και Πολιτικών Επιστημών του Πανεπιστημίου του Βίλνιους
- Την Εκδήλωση «Ευρωπαϊκές Ημέρες Έρευνας και Καινοτομίας Τέχνης» που θα γίνει στις 23 & 24 Ιουνίου
- Άρθρο με θέμα το «Πως να εργαστείτε ως εμπειρογνώμονας για την ΕΕ»
- Την τελική αναφορά της ομάδα διαβούλευσης της EC για την τριτοβάθμια εκπαίδευση και τις ευκαιρίες μάθησης.

Για οποιεσδήποτε περαιτέρω πληροφορίες σε σχέση με τις δραστηριότητες του Δικτύου UNICA, μπορείτε να αποταθείτε στην κα Στέλλα - Μαρία Βασιλείου, Λειτουργό Πανεπιστημίου Α’, Υπεύθυνη Γραφείου Διεθνών Σχέσεων και Προβολής (ηλεκτρ. δ/νση: vassiliou.stellamaria@ucy.ac.cy, τηλ.: +357 22894299).

Είμαστε στη διάθεσή σας για οτιδήποτε χρειάστετε επι του θέματος.

Ευχαριστούμε για τη συνεργασία.

Με φιλικούς χαιρετισμούς,

Μαρία Κελβέρη
Γραφείο Διεθνών Σχέσεων και Προβολής
Τομέας Διεθνών Σχέσεων
Υπηρεσία Λειτουργίας
tηλ.: +357-22894303
Might transdisciplinarity be the way to talk about the elephants in the classroom?

There is an Indian parable that describes the encounter of six blind men with an elephant. Each blind man learns and conceptualises the elephant by touching a specific part of the animal, creating alternative versions of reality from that limited experience and perspective. While this parable has been mostly used to sustain moral relativism and religious tolerance, it is also a good metaphor for Science, as scholars, researchers, and educators are increasingly crossing the traditional boundaries of disciplines to create a holistic approach.
This month we highlight transdisciplinary and intersectoral strategies in education and research to further enhance the debate around these concepts and innovative approaches.

UNICA Rectors Seminar Rewind

The first UNICA Rectors Seminar of 2021, promoted by the University of Ljubljana and the Eutopia University Alliance, put interdisciplinarity and intersectoral education on the spotlight. Divided in two parts, the first (on February 10) focused on the approach to the topic of Education whereas the second (on February 24) emphasized Research.

Soundbites from the seminar

“To know how to gather different scientific languages will be the token for future employers”.

Urban Kordeš, University of Ljubljana

“Thinking critically is a domain, a skill, and a mental stance”.

Sorin Costreie, Vice-Rector, University of Bucharest

“Providing a sense of identity, of being part of a same goal, is an important characteristic of the interdisciplinar approach”.

Ivanka Popović, Rector, University of Belgrade

“The idea that universities want to publish everything and companies nothing has changed. Companies want to publish, it gives them credibility in the marketplace”.

Kerry Kirwan, Deputy ProVice Chancellor (Research), University of Warwick
**SUGGESTED READING ON INTERDISCIPLINARITY**

**What are Interdisciplinary Studies?**

"A process of answering a question, solving a problem, or addressing a topic that is too broad or complex to be dealt with adequately by a single discipline or profession... [It] draws on disciplinary perspectives and integrates their insights through construction of a more comprehensive perspective".


"Universities without walls - A vision for 2030", European University Association, 2021, sets out a vision of resilient and effective universities, serving Europe’s societies towards a better future, where interdisciplinarity will play a major role.

"Interdisciplinarity is an important approach based on a proficient command of disciplinary research. Many new discoveries will happen at the interface between disciplines and will be crucial for meeting the challenges." (p. 6)
"Quests for interdisciplinarity: A challenge for the ERA and HORIZON 2020 Policy Brief by the Research, Innovation, and Science Policy Experts (RISE), Jutta Allmendinger, European Commission, 2015, briefly presents the reasons why interdisciplinarity should become a key priority for EU research and innovation policy.

"Science needs to come up with quicker and effective solutions for complex grand challenges and analyses of complex systems that call for crossing departmental boundaries and inter-disciplinarity to generate new knowledge of transformative power" (p. 4)

UNICA & CESAER Open letter with recommendations on effective funding for inter- and transdisciplinary research, 2020, outlines recommendations on how to advance funding for inter- and transdisciplinary research under competitive national and European funding instruments.

"The major challenges we face today - whether they are cultural, ecological, economic, health-related, social or societal - are so complex and overarching that inter- and transdisciplinary research collaboration is needed to assess, understand and contribute to solving them." (p. 1)

COMING UP
UNICA Green Webinar “Social and Civic Responsibility. Adopting a whole institution approach”
(26 March | 11.00 - 12.30 CET)

Promoted by the University of Edinburgh

Join the third session of this webinar series. This time, the UNICA Green WG brings you insights on how universities can actively choose to increase the positive impacts through its learning and teaching, academic research, operations, and partnerships.

REGISTER NOW

EURLO & UNICA Research Webinar “Remote and Virtual Labs”
(3 March | 14.00-16.00 CET)

Promoted by Middle East Technical University in collaboration with Ankara University

Triggered by the Covid-19, universities as well as R&D institutions rapidly transitioned classes and activities to be conducted remotely. Join this webinar to learn about methods for online laboratory practices.

REGISTER NOW
It is on! We're getting ready for the UNICA Student Conference next July. Recently we met with the Chairs, the students who will be leading each of the topics. Stay tuned, soon we'll start unveiling details about the event of the year! Learn more

Get your hands on the latest version of the calendar! This UNICA tool is regularly updated with upcoming activities & events that you don't want to miss.

DOWNLOAD THE UNICA CALENDAR

PUBLICATIONS

UNICA recently published two reports on key issues in Higher Education, especially considering the challenges that emerged with the pandemic: Academic Forced Displacement and Staff Mobility for Training. Click the pictures to read:
UNICA Student Webinars: Pharma and Biotech Careers in Europe, Part 3

The third and final webinar of this series promoted in cooperation with the European Pharmaceutical Students' Association was a success! Review all session in our website. 
Learn more

TWE+ : a new era for teaching staff mobility is coming!
Results of the Teach With Erasmus+ were presented at the 2021 European Learning & Teaching Forum, organized by the EUA.

With the project ending in Summer 2021, this was an opportunity to present the outcomes of a project that will certainly change the landscape of teaching staff mobility in Europe!

Watch the video for an overview of the TWE+ project's activities, aims and rationale

TWE+ intellectual outputs
We’re almost there!
The project’s consortium is currently working hard on the development of the Platform to offer and to search for mobility opportunities for teachers as well as on the policy recommendations. While these are still cooking, read some of the findings concerning Teaching Staff Mobility from earlier stages of the project:

- **seizing the opportunity** of gathering teaching experience abroad with Erasmus+ is more **favoured among non-starter professors**;

- institutions where **strategic focus and support on internationalization is higher**, and where they provide more information about teaching mobility programmes, have a **higher ratio of Erasmus+ participants**;

- overall **satisfaction** for mobility teachers is affected by the **amount of feedback** from students, self-efficacy and lack of benefits;

- organisational support on teaching programmes also affects results, **higher support means considering more results**.

💡 Read all the conclusions at the website of TWE+

---

**NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS & PARTNERS**

The rise of the Humanities at the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo (UiO), unveiled an ambitious and innovative action plan to strengthen the position of the Humanities towards 2030, following the government’s intention to realise the full potential of this field to meet society’s major challenges. [Learn more](#)
2021 Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope Stakeholder Forum | 26 & 27 April
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s Philipp Schwartz Initiative, in cooperation with the Scholars at Risk Germany Section and the Inspireurope project, organises this online event to discuss issues related to academic freedom and the situation of at-risk researchers in Europe. Learn more

Invitation and call for papers - Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University
Lithuanian UNICA member is organising two high level conferences and is looking for contributions. Learn more

ON OUR RADAR

European Research & Innovation Days | 23 & 24 June
This edition will mark the official launch of Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme (2021-2027). It will also highlight initiatives to strengthen the European Research and the importance of collective research and innovation. Learn more

Work as an expert for the EU
Learn about opportunities to assist the European Institutions in the evaluation of grant applications, projects and tenders, and to provide opinions and advice in specific cases. Calls are published on a regular basis. Learn more
The digital roaring twenties
President of the EC, Ursula von der Leyen, delivered a speech earlier this month at the ‘Masters of Digital 2021’ event, where she expressed the belief that "the 2020s can be Europe's Digital Decade. A decade when Europe becomes a global leader in the digital world". Learn more

All eyes on Microcredentials
The EC's microcredentials higher education consultation group recently published the final report with a European approach to this more flexible and modular form of learning opportunities. Learn more

🤔 What are microcredentials?
A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards.

A European approach to micro-credentials – Output of the micro-credentials higher education consultation group – Final report

The six men agree on something...
KEEP SAFE
WEAR A MASK

Unica