In November 2002 the general Assembly in Cyprus approved of focusing UNICA’s policy for the following years on the development and implementation of the Bologna Process. The creation of the European Higher Education Area by 2010 will bring about major changes at European, national, and institutional levels. Each of the UNICA universities will want to deal with questions of strategic planning, organizational development, and quality management as well as the planning and implementation of outcome-based curricula against the background of lifelong learning; each UNICA member institution will have to define its position with regard to the further development of the European Commission’s initiatives (‘ECTS Label’, ‘Diploma Supplement Label’, etc.).

In view of UNICA’s mission, the UNICA Bologna Laboratory aims at combining the strengths of member institutions with regard to the issues mentioned above, to encourage members to join forces in a complementary fashion and thus to treat new developments in a pluri-dimensional way. By way of an integrated approach, the key stakeholders within and across member institutions will be brought together: rectors and vice-rectors, academics responsible for curriculum development, administrators, and students. A dynamic website and a number of topical workshops will enable the network members to exchange good practices, ideas on strategies, and problems on the practical side of the day-to-day effects of the Bologna process in UNICA universities, thus stressing the “laboratory” aspect of the process. The Bologna laboratory will be centrally coordinated, but member institutions will decide on the topics and the partners they wish to concentrate on.

The medium term goal is to safeguard mobility in newly emerging educational structures, to arrive at good criteria for the mutual recognition of qualifications within the network, and to develop a sizable number of joint UNICA degree programmes in different academic fields and on different levels as well as to establish comparable measures of quality assurance. The ultimate aim, however, must be to establish UNICA as the most competitive Higher Education network in Europe and as a competent global player.

Arthur Mettinger,
Vice-Rector University of Vienna,
Member Steering Committee

A new President and a new Steering Committee will be elected, according to the UNICA statutes, in 2003. The procedure was launched on February 24th and nominations should be made before September 1st. The votes will be cast at the General Assembly in Oslo on November 14th; the new representatives will take up their duties on January 1st, 2004.
WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2002

> Student Conference 2002
Following up the initiative of the Freie Universität Berlin, University College London (UCL) hosted a second student conference, on The Future of Europe, on 10-13th April 2002. UCL welcomed student delegations from 26 capital cities. The 245 delegates – up to ten from each country – participated in ten fora. Young people have a major stake in the future and must use their skills and their enthusiasm to influence the shape of development in the world to come. UCL therefore organised this conference in order to make a meaningful contribution to the debate; to give young people an opportunity to make their voices heard; to demonstrate to the public at large that students have something to say that is worth hearing. http://www.ucl.ac.uk/euroconference

Since these conferences have each been very successful, a third Student Conference on Diversity and Unity in Europe, the Question of Identity will be organised in October 2004 by the Universiteit van Amsterdam.

> Fundraising Seminar
The UNICA Seminar on Fundraising Best Practices was hosted by the Université Libre de Bruxelles and attended by more than 50 participants with an important attendance by representatives of Universities in Central Europe; it was sponsored by Brakely Ltd and Ketchum Fundraising. Experts from our member universities and specialists from consultancy firms addressed the following topics: Ethics and Fundraising, Friendraising towards fundraising, Building an Alumni community as a foundation for university fundraising, Fundraising, a leverage on academic excellence.

> Honorary Doctorate
In collaboration with the Université Libre de Bruxelles, UNICA honoured the four pioneers of the 1987 ERASMUS programme on November 29th 2002. Ms Angélique Verli and Messrs Hywel Ceri Jones, Domenico Lenarduzzi and Alan Smith were awarded honorary doctorates. On the same occasion, the President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, received the medal of the University. The Rector, Pierre de Maret, stressed the importance of UNICA and its action in anticipating the growth of Europe by grouping universities from practically all the capital cities of Europe, from Nicosia to Reykjavik. A large number of representatives of UNICA members attended the ceremony in their traditional academic dress. The coats of arms of all the member universities decorated one of the walls of the lecture theatre.

> Scholarly Communication
On 24-25th October 2002, a UNICA seminar on the future of scholarly communication was organised at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, in close collaboration with the libraries of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The conference dealt with the economic aspects and the financial challenges that libraries are facing. They provided useful insights into the evolution of scholarly communication and provided an incentive to mobilise and to take action. The first action has been to set up and disseminate towards academic and governmental bodies the recommendations arising from the seminar, viz. raising awareness of all concerned, developing library cooperation and information exchange among all the actors - libraries, scholars, publishers, academic authorities, national and European governments and funding agencies, urging the E.C. to strengthen the European scientific information market position by supporting low VAT rates and achievements such as institutional repositories, open archives, consortia. A follow-up meeting will be organised in 2004.

> Infrastructure of International Relations
The UNICA network was involved in the EAAE General Assembly held in Porto in 2002. Representatives of UNICA members were active in different sessions. The network also organised a workshop on Brainstorming in the Infrastructure of International Relations. In Vienna September 2003, UNICA will participate in panels on anti-discrimination policies. EAAE website: www.eaie.nl
> Working Group

Science Parks and incubators

The working group on Science Parks and incubators met in 2002 – in Brussels and in Helsinki – and new meetings and contacts with the E.U. are planned in 2003. An Expression of Interest (UNICASPIN: UNICA Science Parks & INCubators) has been submitted to the E.U. in the context of the 6th Framework Programme. The aims of the UNICA working group are (i) the exchange of “best practices” in approaches to the management of innovation and technology transfer and the operation of high technology business incubators and science and technology parks and (ii) the sharing of experience expertise. Pat Frain from University College Dublin is the chairman of the working group. See also www.ulb.ac.be/unica/3_workinggroups.html

> Seminar

Urban Issues

The Urban Issues working group submitted an Expression of Interest (OPUCC: Observatory on the Place of Universities in European Capital Cities) in the context of the 6th Framework Programme. OPUCC aims to tackle the production of a comparative atlas on the position of universities and research in European capital cities. The contact person is Christian Vandermotten at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. See also www.ulb.ac.be/unica/3_workinggroups.html

Equal Opportunities

A Mission Statement on Equal Opportunities was adopted unanimously by the UNICA network at the General Assembly in Brussels on 15th December 2000. It states that all UNICA members pledge themselves to the implementation of policy procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, age, disability, colour, ethnic origin, belief or sexual orientation.

At a seminar hosted by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel we will discuss the question how to translate words into action. The aim is to examine the development and the implementation of equal opportunity policies at the level of our organizations.

Lifelong Learning

A UNICA seminar on Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) and Lifelong Learning (LLL) will be organised by the Université Libre de Bruxelles at the beginning of 2004. The aims are to (i) exchange information; (ii) share best practices and (iii) discuss the use of common methodology and procedures. For information see the UNICA website.

> Workshop

Diploma supplement

A UNICA workshop on Diploma Supplements will be organised in Riga, Latvia, on October 11-14, 2003. The workshop aims at sharing the University of Latvia experience in preparing DS’s with those responsible in UNICA universities for issuing such documents (institutional/faculty registrars, records keepers, etc…). This workshop will focus on putting the requirements into practice and on IT support systems. More detailed information on the programme and registration will be available on the UNICA website.

> Conference

Education, Research, Migration

A European Conference on Education, Research, Migration: which European policy vis-à-vis globalisation? will be organised jointly by three Directorates-General of the European Commission (Education & Culture, Justice & Home Affairs, Research & Technological Development) and UNICA. The conference will be held in Rome at the Università La Sapienza on Friday 5th December 2003 on the occasion of the seventh-hundred anniversary of its foundation. The European Commissioners Viviane Reding, Philippe Busquin and Antonio Vitorino as well the President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, will be invited. The following topics will be addressed: (i) Education and the GATS; (ii) Migration for the purposes of studies and vocational training; (iii) Mobility of researchers.
Founded in 1971, the Université Paris VI adopted the name "Université Pierre et Marie Curie" in 1974, in order to perpetuate the scientific heritage of these illustrious predecessors. Today it is the largest scientific and medical complex in France: 4,000 researchers and teachers-researchers as well as 3,000 engineers, technicians & administrative staff work on its premises and the UPMC welcomes 30,000 students, 10,000 of whom are in the 3rd cycle.

This Paris and Ile-de-France University also plays a major role at national level and has all the necessary assets to take its rightful place as one of the major European universities.

Heir to both the Sorbonne and the Faculty of Law and Economics of Paris, as expressed in its name Panthéon-Sorbonne, the Université Paris 1 currently welcomes some 40,000 students in 14 Training and Research Units (U.F.R) and 5 Institutes. It offers a full range of courses in the fields of law and of political science, economics and management as well as in human sciences.

Situated at the heart of the Latin Quarter, this university aims to integrate tradition and modernity.

The Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – 37,000 students –, founded in 1810 as Universität Berlin, was the first university modelled on Wilhelm von Humboldt's ideal of the coexistence of teaching and research. Eleven faculties provide for a wide spectrum of disciplines ranging from humanities and cultural studies, the natural sciences and medicine to law, theology, economics, and the social sciences.

More than 160 partner universities around the world regularly exchange students and teachers with its departments, which makes the Humboldt-Universität a truly international institution.

On the largest campus in Italy, about 600 hectares, the University of Tor Vergata hosts more than 4,000 teachers, administrative, and technical staff and over 30,000 students enrolled in six different faculties ranging from Economics, Law, Humanities to Engineering, Science and Medicine and Surgery. The courses in the University of Tor Vergata ensure an educational and training content in line with international and European requirements.

Tor Vergata is a place where teachers, students, personnel or private citizens are involved in the same effort to develop the University and to foster its integration in the social fabric.

< University of Warsaw
The gardens on the roof of the modern library!

We hope that on these occasions we will meet our colleagues and discover the various attractions and assets of these universities.

The members of the UNICA network really appreciate the hospitality of the hosting member universities.

In 2003, we have had the pleasure of being hosted by Brussels and Warsaw and we are looking forward to having our next meetings in Vienna, Riga, Oslo and Rome.

Thank you for your hospitality
During its thirteen years of existence, UNICA has been an active network in many fields of education and research. In the coming years we intend to focus our emphasis on participation in the Bologna process, helping to provide a framework for increased cooperation among our member universities in their efforts to create joint academic degrees, especially joint master’s degrees. In addition to this crucial process there are two other issues which will be of particular importance for our network in the near future: the collaboration of the UNICA universities with the capital cities and our participation in the process of globalisation in education, research, and migration.

The significance of relationships between universities and cities was recently demonstrated at a meeting held in Rome, in February 2003. The meeting was arranged by the three UNICA universities in Rome – La Sapienza, Tor Vergata, and Roma Tre – together with the municipality of Rome and in agreement with the office of the European Commission representation of Italy. The specific theme of the meeting was the extension of the European Union and the role of cities and universities in this perspective. Present were rectors and mayors of capital cities in the EU countries as well as those of the candidate countries. From UNICA’s point of view it was gratifying to sense the openness and interest expressed by the mayors concerning the universities in their cities. Providing opportunities for the exchange of viewpoints and the expression of ideas is an important way to enhance cooperation between cities and universities. An outstanding example of this, and one that we hope will be duplicated by others, was the creation by Lausanne of a UNICA chair.

However, UNICA’s unique and important role is not only limited to enhancing relationships with the European capitals. In the years to come the network intends to be a very active partner in discussions on education and research in a globalised world. In this context, questions focusing on quality assurance and control will be of major importance, while at the same time creativity and innovation must be encouraged. But, as always, UNICA will continue to emphasize the value of academic excellence, integration, and co-operation – all of which are important cornerstones of our network.

Gunnel Engwall
Rector University of Stockholm
President of UNICA

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UNICA is a network of over 35 universities from the capital cities of Europe, with a combined strength of over 120,000 staff and 1,300,000 students. Its role is to promote academic excellence, integration and co-operation between member universities throughout Europe. It seeks also to be a driving force in the development of the Bologna process and to facilitate the integration of universities from Central and Eastern Europe into the European Higher Education Area.

To achieve its aims, UNICA articulates the views of member universities to European institutions and to national, regional and municipal governments. It provides members with information on European initiatives and programmes, and supports them in co-operation projects. It also provides a forum in which universities can reflect on the demands of strategic change in university research, education and administration.

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