

## > Unica Student conference, Amsterdam – 27-30 Octobre 2004

**Interview with Esmee Duman,  
project co-ordinator**



**Esmee, your university has asked you to co-ordinate the third UNICA Student Conference. What does this entail?** As a Project Co-ordinator for the UNICA student Conference I have to determine a subject for the conference, have meetings with the Committee of Recommendation, arrange accommodation for the students, locations for the meetings, determine the look of the website and consult experts about the fora topics.

**Are you working together with other people or departments from the university on this?** I am working for the International office of Student Services at the Universiteit van Amsterdam (UvA). Right now I have a team of three students who are all very enthusiastic about working on the conference. We have also two colleagues from the Hogeschool van Amsterdam (HvA), the University for Professional Education, with whom we discuss different aspects of the conference.

**The subject of "Unity and Diversity in Europe: the question of Identity" is topical and fascinating too, but what led the Universiteit van Amsterdam to choose it?** We thought that it would be really interesting to discuss the fact that although Europe is a unity because of a common European history, there are so many different countries, cultures, sub national regions and cross-cultural developments in Europe which make the question of identity more and more interesting. Is there a European identity and what is the relation with national identity? The Universiteit van Amsterdam believes that it is very good to bring students together and give them the opportunity to discuss important issues in Europe, like during the UNICA Student Conference. And of course it is great that the conference in Amsterdam will be at the same time as the Dutch Presidency of the EU, which will be in the second part of 2004.

**Could we just look for a moment at the different discussion fora?** We are still working on the final fora topics, but I can give you a few examples: European Political Strength and the European Constitution, Intra-EU migration and Economic Mobility, English as lingua franca and regional cultures and languages, Educational Mobility and Knowledge Economy, Knowledge Economy and Social Cohesion.

**Have you had any contact with your UNICA partners at the FUB or UCL so as to gain from their experience?** I have visited my colleagues in London and Berlin to learn from their experience with preparing the conference so that

we can make the conference in Amsterdam successful.

**Can we expect any special guests to round off the conference?** Dr. Wim Duisenberg, the former President of the European Central Bank will close the conference and Prof. Dr. Otto von der Gablenz will participate in the panel discussion. I have also informed the College of Europe at Bruges and will probably invite the rector to the conference.

**A fine new "unicainamsterdam" website has been set up for the conference; what part does it have in organising the conference?** The website is very important, because the delegations will not be able to meet each other before the conference. We have therefore created a possibility on the website where the several fora have the opportunity to get to know each other and have online discussions on their forum topic. All the up-to-date information about the conference will be posted on the website. The chairs will play an important role in stimulating online discussion on the website.

What I would also like to emphasize is that there will be plenty of time for social events like the canal tour, a sports event and the final party.

Finally, I would like to say that we hope to welcome delegations from all UNICA-members to the UNICA Student Conference 2004 "Unity and Diversity in Europe, the Question of Identity" in Amsterdam!

■ More information?  
[www.unicainamsterdam.nl](http://www.unicainamsterdam.nl)

### > UNICA STUDENT CONFERENCES

Freie Universität Berlin,  
November 2000,  
"The Making of Europe –  
Guidelines of European  
Policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

University College London,  
April 2002, "The Future  
of Europe"

## > Science Parks and incubators



> *B. de Vuyst (VUB), B. Vega (Madrid), J. Tanner (Tallinn), A. Alexandrou (Cyprus), J. Vos (UvA), I. Tammeaid (Helsinki), P. Frain, Chair of the Working Group (UCD)*

On 16 May 2003, members of the working group on Science Parks & Incubators met with Philippe de Taxis du Poët, Director for Knowledge-based economy and society, Strategic and Policy Aspects at the European Commission, D.G. Research, to discuss the Joint Investment Fund concept which had been developed jointly DG Research and the European Investment Fund.

The working group is submitting a draft JIF model to the European Commission together with a number of general conditions which are considered essential for the success of the JIF and its acceptance by the universities.

## > Rome Conference

### EDUCATION, RESEARCH, MIGRATION

A European Conference on Education, Research, Migration: which European policy vis-à-vis globalization? was held in Rome at the Università La Sapienza on Friday 5 December 2003, on the occasion of the seven-hundredth anniversary of the university's foundation.

The main objectives of the conference were to gather all different actors and to present with large coverage the European initiatives aimed at favouring the admission of third-country students and researchers.

## > Diploma Supplements

A one-day workshop on Diploma Supplements was hosted by the University of Latvia on October 12-13, 2003.

The participants exchanged information and experience on the preparations for the introduction of DS in their universities. The results of the workshop were greatly appreciated and all participants were enthusiastic about organizing a second workshop in the future.

The UNICA Diploma Supplement workshop was widely reflected in the Latvian media.

## > Equal Opportunities

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel hosted a UNICA Seminar on Equal Opportunities, chaired by Jeroen Doomernik from the Universiteit van Amsterdam on December 12-13, 2003.

Experts from the University of Stockholm, University College London, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Universität Wien and Vrije Universiteit Brussel directly involved in the implementation of equal-opportunities policies were invited to share their expertise on the implementation of principles in the field with their fellow-workers in the UNICA network.

The working group for Equal Opportunities chaired by Jeroen Doomernik will explore the possibility of setting up joint projects.

## > City of Lausanne UNICA Honor Chair

Thanks to the financial contribution and the interest shown by the City of Lausanne, a "City of Lausanne UNICA Honor Chair" has been created for four years for the University of Lausanne and the UNICA network.

This year, the award was given to the newly created Faculty of Geosciences and Environment which is now hosting Professor Christian Vandermotten, Director of the Department of Geography at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He is currently giving a class every Tuesday on "Permanency and paths of European disparities". He will also give several public conferences and participate actively in the development of the new Faculty.

Next year, the Rectorate of the University of Lausanne has attributed the UNICA Chair of Honor to the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, which has just celebrated its centenary.

## > Rectors' Seminar

A UNICA Rectors' Seminar was held in Oslo on 14 November 2003. The participants confirmed their strong interest in developing joint master programmes, and in using UNICA as a tool for co-ordinating and facilitating such collaboration. For the coming year, members agreed to move forward and to identify promising projects.

This genuinely interesting Conference was attended by about 30 UNICA rectors and vice-rectors.



> *Andrée Sursock (Deputy Secretary General EUA), Arild Underdal (Rector, University of Oslo), Arthur Mettinger (President UNICA)*



> *Rectors' Seminar - Oslo, Nov. 2004*

## > Working Groups



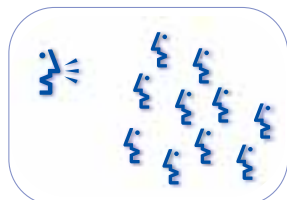
**Special Needs** In March 2004 the list of resource persons for special needs (handicaps) appointed by the member universities was distributed by the Secretary General. Most UNICA members provide service and counselling for students, teachers and staff with special needs. Gathering the names and coordinates is one of the initiatives of the network by which it hopes to comply with its Mission Statement on Equal Opportunities. The aim is to

encourage the resource persons to exchange information, experience and best practices, to formulate common goals and standards and possibly meet each other at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Higher Education and Disability [www.unotrac.org](http://www.unotrac.org) to take place this year in Innsbruck, Austria, on July 27-30 and possibly create their own network within UNICA.

**ScienceParks & Incubators** The Chairman of the Science Parks and Incubators working group, Pat Fraun from University College Dublin, is involved in the feasibility discussion with the European Investment Fund and the European Commission on Joint Investment Funds.

If the results of the feasibility study are positive, a pilot project will be undertaken involving a number of universities with seed funds.

## > Seminars



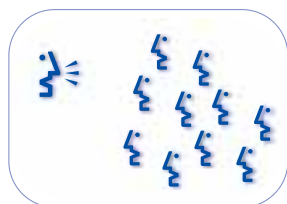
**Seminar on Scholarly Communication** A second seminar on scholarly communication "*F@ir Publishing & F@ir Reading*" will take place on 25 & 26 November 2004, and will be hosted by the Universität Wien and chaired by Prof. J.-P. Devroey, Director of the Libraries of the Université Libre de

Bruxelles. Following up the seminar on the future of scholarly communication held in Madrid in 2002, this seminar will investigate what is being undertaken in libraries and in universities to facilitate and preserve access to scientific information.

**Seminar for Bologna Laboratory co-ordinators** Professor Arthur Mettinger, President of the UNICA Network, invites all UNICA Bologna Lab Co-ordinators to a first meeting scheduled 2-3 July, 2004 to be hosted by the Universität Wien. The meeting aims at enhancing the

exchange of ideas, problems and experiences as regards the implementation of the Bologna Process at UNICA universities and to develop a working programme within the network. [programme: www.univie.ac.at/bologna-lab](http://www.univie.ac.at/bologna-lab)

## > Conferences



**Ljubljana International Conference** An international Conference on Challenges of Joint (Post)Graduate University Studies and Research in Europe will be organized by the Univerza v Ljubljani on 7-9 October 2004, in association with the CEI University Network and UNICA.

The University of Ljubljana wants to bring together people from "old" and "new" Europe (as well as from overseas) to see if they can together foster joint university studies and research within the European Higher Education Area. [mira.strukelj@Uni-Lj.si](mailto:mira.strukelj@Uni-Lj.si)

**Student Conference** The third UNICA Student Conference on October 27-30, 2004: *Unity and*

*Diversity in Europe: the question of Identity.* (see article on page 1)

## > Projects



**Socrates programme BEPIQUA – BENCHMARKS and Performance Indicators for QUALITY ASSURANCE** in University International Collaboration is the new project in the framework of the Socrates Programme for Accompanying Measures that has been submitted to the European Commission.

assessing the Quality Assurance of international collaboration activities in universities and will involve International Offices, Research Offices, EU Programmes, bilateral cooperation and mobility of staff and students.

The main aim of the project is to develop Benchmarks and Performance Indicators for

The project will be coordinated by Andreas Mallouppas from the University of Cyprus.

**Science and society** A project, entitled ISIS (Integrating Science, Industry and Society), initiated by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, has been submitted to the European Commission in the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

The aim of ISIS is to create multi-level dynamic interfaces between science, industry and society with an eye to embedding the expertise and knowledge and improve the impact of scientific advice in policy making.

## EXTENDING UNICA

Welcome to our new members

### > Lomonosov Moscow State University



Founded in 1755, Lomonosov Moscow State University is the largest and the oldest in Russia. The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Moscow University (on 25 January 2005) was included in the UNESCO 2004-2005 list of memorable events.

Moscow University is the leading educational, scientific and cultural centre in Russia. It comprises 27 faculties specializing both in Science and Humanities, and 17 research institutes. Moscow University offers studies towards following degrees: Specialist, Bachelor, Master, PhD, Doctor of Science.

Moscow University has 40,000 students, 9,000 Professors, Assistant Professors and Research associates, 7,000 of whom hold Doctor of Science and PhD degrees, and 5,000 international students from 78 countries. More than 8,000 foreign citizens from 80 countries study or conduct research or visit the University as official delegates annually. Moscow University runs about 400 agreements on co-operation with ministries, universities, and public organizations from 75 countries.

It is a home to over 30 international institutes and joint centres.

### > Université Paris-Dauphine



From its inception in 1968, the University of Paris Dauphine has occupied a distinctive place among French institutions of higher learning. Renowned for its innovative teaching methods and highly respected research centers, Paris Dauphine offers undergraduate and graduate degree programmes in Management and Business Administration, Applied Mathematics and Economics.

In a multi-disciplinary approach to these ever-changing fields, courses in such diverse areas as economics, mathematics, information technology, accounting, finance, law, human relations, languages and sociology of organizations are brought together to form a cohesive whole.

#### A FEW FIGURES :

- 7800 students in undergraduate and graduate programmes
- 456 lecturers and researchers, including 81 full professors
- 672 visiting lecturers and guest professors from business and other professional spheres.
- 13,5 % international student enrolment from 80 different countries
- 98 international exchange agreements.
- 22 research centres, 4 of which are associated with the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS)
- 4 Doctoral Schools co-ordinating Ph.D. programs throughout the university; two Research Institutes

### > St. Kliment Ohridski University, Sofia



The Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" University is the first school of higher education in Bulgaria. Its history is an embodiment and a continuation of centuries of cultural and educational tradition.

From the very beginning, the founders of the Bulgarian university set themselves more ambitious goals "to open departments of various branches of science", i.e. to establish a modern university in which Departments will naturally grow into Faculties.

In today's world, which is becoming more and more global and technologically developed, Sofia University is aware of the need for communication and partnership. As an institution of higher education, it has as a priority in its activities the exchange of intellectual resources with many educational institutions in Europe, USA, Latin America and Asia.

The Faculties, Pre-school and Primary School Education are spread over 7 different campuses.

St. Kliment Ohridsky has 22,000 students.

## THANK YOU for your hospitality

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

*We have had the pleasure* of being welcomed by **Brussels, Oslo, Riga, Rome and Zagreb**. We are looking forward to having our next meetings in Vienne, Paris, Ljubljana, Bratislava, Amsterdam.

> General Assembly, Nov. 2004, University of Oslo, Norwegian folk dancers



## > Message from the President



*I would first of all like to thank all UNICA members for putting so much trust and confidence in me by electing me UNICA president, and I can assure you that I will work as hard as possible to develop our network into an outstanding example of collaboration in the newly emerging European Higher Education and Research Areas. My thanks – and I am sure I am speaking in the name of all of you – also go to Gunnel Engwall, who for the past years steered UNICA's course in a wonderfully coherent and subtly*

*feminine way, not only by managing to put UNICA on a firm financial basis but also by discussing and profiling UNICA's future mission.*

*We will miss her, but we also know that we may always turn to her for counselling and advice. In this context I also want to express the network's gratitude towards the members of the outgoing Steering Committee whose valuable input has greatly contributed to UNICA's development into the future.*

*Our working programme for 2004 is rather dense: the UNICA Student Conference in Amsterdam will bring students from all over Europe together to discuss topics relevant to their future, a Special Needs Working Group has been set up comprised of resource persons for special needs (handicaps) appointed by the member universities, a second Seminar on Scholarly Communication will take place in Vienna in November 2004, and an international conference in Ljubljana on challenges of joint (post)graduate university studies and research in Europe will look at potential curricular models that link education and research in the new Europe. During the IRO meeting in Zagreb in April we discussed the new ERASMUS MUNDUS programme and the need for a common UNICA language certificate.*

*The focus of our activities, the Bologna Laboratory, is gaining momentum: almost all UNICA universities have nominated their Bologna co-ordinators, more and more status quo reports are coming in, and at the beginning of July all Bologna co-ordinators will meet in Vienna to develop a concrete action plan.*

*I am sure that with the help of all of you UNICA will continue to strengthen the position of the network and its member universities.*

Arthur METTINGER  
Vice-Rector, Universität Wien  
& President of UNICA

## > Welcome to our new president and Steering Committee

The Oslo General Assembly elected a new President and a new Steering Committee on 14 November 2003.

### President

> Arthur METTINGER  
Vice-Rector, Universität Wien

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### Members

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> Steering Committee meeting – Zagreb, April 2004

## > UNICA Office

Planning to travel to Brussels? Please send us a mail.  
You will be welcomed with a smile and coffee or tea will be waiting for you!

On the UNICA website you will find all the information on how to get to the UNICA Office. Take advantage of having the UNICA secretariat in the capital of Europe!

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## ↘ UNICA in figures

**1990 UNICA** established  
**38 universities**  
**30 capital cities**  
**1,500,000 students**  
**130,000 staff**

### > UNICA BOLOGNA LABORATORY by Arthur Mettinger and Kathrin Kordon

*At the beginning of 2004 Arthur Mettinger set up* the UNICA Bologna Laboratory as one of his first major initiatives as the president of the UNICA network. To support the initiative, a website ([www.univie.ac.at/bologna-lab](http://www.univie.ac.at/bologna-lab)) was launched which serves UNICA as a platform to enhance the development of the Bologna Process within the network. The Bologna Laboratory is situated in Vienna where it is coordinated by Professor Mettinger in co-operation with Kathrin Kordon (moderator of the website) and Roland Steinacher (webmaster).

An essential function of the website is to provide clearly structured information about the development of the Bologna Process, ranging from the Bologna Declaration in 1999 to current projects. UNICA members are invited to use this platform to disseminate current papers. Currently, status quo reports describing the present situation at each UNICA institution are collected and published on the website. This initiative aims to offer a coherent overview of a number of relevant issues, (ECTS, Diploma Supplement, European Masters, Joint Degrees, quality assurance, etc.).

The very core function of the website, however, is constituted by a moderated forum, the Bologna Lab Intranet. This forum allows all UNICA member institutions to exchange ideas, good practices and day-to-day problems. The Bologna Lab Intranet is centrally co-ordinated by the team in Vienna.

As a first step, the member institutions are requested to post three dimensions of the Bologna Process as main areas of interest and bring forward academic fields in which they wish to develop joint degree programmes. Each UNICA member institution has appointed a Bologna Lab Co-ordinator. On a regular basis, task force discussions and meetings for the co-ordinators are arranged. The first meeting will be held on 2 & 3 July 2004 at the University of Vienna. This occasion will allow all members

- to present the current situation at their universities and ongoing projects dealing with the various dimensions of the Bologna Process

- to identify the focal fields of activity
- to develop a working programme
- to discuss the creation of two main UNICA task forces, i.e. specialised task forces and curriculum development task forces.

The Bologna Lab Intranet serves as the ideal medium to discuss these issues. The outcomes of the task force discussion will be published on the website.

On the whole, it is highly desirable that the UNICA Bologna Laboratory should achieve its aim of facilitating co-operation and interaction throughout Europe.

### > Message of sympathy to the Madrid Universities

*Dear Rector, Dear Colleague,*

*On behalf of the members of the UNICA network I should like to offer our sincere sympathy to our member universities, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid & Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and to the citizens of Madrid with regard to the inhuman terrorist attacks to which their city and country have been subjected.*

*Blind terrorism, apparently with as only objective to cause as much damage and human suffering as possible, cannot be sufficiently condemned. Please accept our sincere condolences. Yours sincerely,*

*Professor Arthur METTINGER  
PRESIDENT of the UNICA Network*