



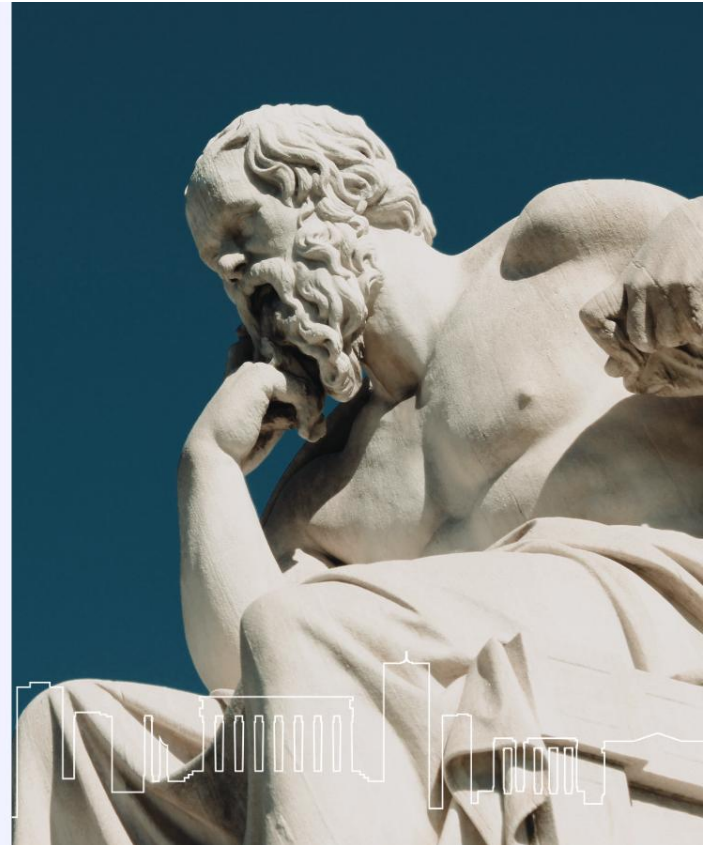
HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens

# UNICA

## 35<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY & RECTORS' SEMINAR

“The key role of the  
Humanities in our universities”

18-20 June 2025  
National and Kapodistrian  
University of Athens (NKUA)



### TARGET GROUPS

Rectors/Presidents, Vice-Rectors/Vice-Presidents, representatives of academic leadership responsible for international affairs and partnerships, UNICA institutional Contact Persons, Heads of International Offices and Senior Managers involved in International and European Affairs, from UNICA member universities.

#### REGISTRATION

Registration forms available at the event webpage:

<https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-general-assembly-2025/>

#### Registration deadlines:

**6 June 2025** for onsite participation |

**13 June for online attendance** of the General Assembly

#### FORMAT

Onsite event.

Options for online participation and vote provided for the General Assembly only

For any questions, please contact the UNICA Secretariat: [office@unica-network.eu](mailto:office@unica-network.eu)



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## Overall schedule of the event

**Venue:** NKUA Main Building, Panepistimiou St. 30, Athens

Day 0 – Wednesday, 18 June 2025					
17:00-19:00	<b>UNICA Steering Committee meeting</b> (for SC members only) <b>Venue:</b> NKUA Main Building, Senate New Hall				
19:00-21:00	<b>Welcome Reception</b> <b>Venue:</b> <a href="#">Kostis Palamas” Building</a> , 48, Akadimias str. & Sina St.				
Day 1 – Thursday, 19 June 2025					
08:30-9:00	Registration of the participants & welcome coffee				
9:00-12:45	<b>UNICA Administrative General Assembly</b> <b>Venue:</b> NKUA Main Building, Great Hall <b>Format:</b> in person, with options for remote participation and vote				
12:45-13:00	<b>Time for a group picture</b>				
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>				
14:00-15:45	<b>Parallel informal meetings</b>				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>UNICA members leadership meeting</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>UNICA Contact Persons and IROs meeting</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Venue: NKUA Main Building, Great Hall</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Venue: NKUA Main Building “Alkis Argyriadis” Amphitheatre</td> </tr> </table>	<b>UNICA members leadership meeting</b>	<b>UNICA Contact Persons and IROs meeting</b>	Venue: NKUA Main Building, Great Hall	Venue: NKUA Main Building “Alkis Argyriadis” Amphitheatre
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16:30 – 19:30	<b>Social programme (optional):</b> visit to the Acropolis				
20:00	<b>UNICA conference dinner</b> <b>Venue:</b> <a href="#">Athens University History Museum</a> - Address: Tholou St. 5, Plaka				
Day 2 – Friday, 20 June 2025					
9:00-18:00	<b>UNICA Rectors’ Seminar “The key role of the Humanities in our universities”</b> <b>Venue:</b> NKUA Main Building, Great Hall				

## UNICA RECTORS' SEMINAR

# “The key role of the Humanities in our universities”

Hosted by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
Friday, 20 June 2025 | 9:00-18:00

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*One must never disregard the  
significance of the Humanities.  
Progress might drive us forward,  
but purpose guides us beyond.*

### Introduction

Curiosity has always been a driving force behind scientific progress. Just as humanity strives to understand the mechanics of the world, it has also been committed to uncovering the deeper meanings behind them.

Today, however, we are regrettably witnessing a growing pattern of disinvestment in the disciplines that critically explore meaning, values, and the broader implications of scientific advancement. In recent years, the closure or significant restructuring of Humanities programmes often reflects wider trends in Higher Education, including financial pressures, a shift in student interest toward STEM fields, and changing institutional priorities.

Yet we must ask: what future can science truly have if we neglect the urgent questions surrounding the significance of human experience? New technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality only heighten this concern, as they curiously defy the boundaries of human experience and consciousness.

It is in response to these crucial questions that the Rectors' Seminar taking place in the context of the 35<sup>th</sup> UNICA General Assembly will focus on the importance of the Humanities.

The event will also explore the critical role universities must play in preserving the value, relevance, and vitality of the Humanities, a mission that is of particular relevance for institutions in capital cities, where technology, culture, innovation, and policy meet.

By **Prof. Dimitrios Karadimas**, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

## UNICA RECTORS' SEMINAR

### “The key role of the Humanities in our universities”

Hosted by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Friday, 20 June 2025 | 9:00-18:00

#### PROGRAMME (as of 5 June 2025)

**Venue:** NKUA Main Building, Panepistimiou St. 30, Great Hall

**Overall Chair:** Sorin COSTREIE, UNICA President

08:30-09:00	<b>Registration of the participants and welcome coffee</b>
09:00-09:15	<b>Welcome addresses and introduction to the Seminar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gerasimos SIASOS</b>, Rector, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</li> <li>• <b>Sorin COSTREIE</b>, UNICA President</li> </ul>
09:15-09:45	<b>Keynote speech:</b> <i>"The Democratic University and its Role in Modern Democracy"</i> by <b>Dimitrios KARADIMAS</b> , former Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee
09:45-11:15	<b>Session 1 – The need of humanities in our universities</b> <b>Chair:</b> Sorin COSTREIE, UNICA President <b>Speakers (15' each)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The End of the Humanities? Why Do We Still Need Liberal Arts and Humanistic Education in the Universities?</i>, by <b>Mircea DUMITRU</b>, Professor of Philosophy and former Rector, University of Bucharest, Vice-president of the Romanian Academy</li> <li>• <i>In Defense of the Humanities: Addressing Contemporary Biases in Research Evaluation and Publishing Norms</i>, by <b>Christina KOULOURI</b>, Rector, Panteion University of Social and Economic Sciences</li> <li>• <b>Christopher SMITH</b>, Executive Chair, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) - Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) (online)</li> </ul> <b>Open discussion with the participants</b>
11:15-11:45	<b>Coffee break</b>

11:45-13:15	<p><b>Session 2 – Integrating Humanities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education and research</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Anastas GERDJIKOV</b>, former Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee</p> <p><b>Opening talks (15’ each)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pericles A. MITKAS</b>, President, Hellenic Authority for Higher Education</li> <li>• <i>Integrating Humanities in STEM</i>, by <b>Gabi LOMBARDO</b>, Director, European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) (online)</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ksenija VIDMAR HORVAT</b>, Vice-Rector for study and student affairs, University of Ljubljana</li> <li>• <b>Pericles A. MITKAS</b>, President, Hellenic Authority for Higher Education</li> <li>• <b>Sophia PAPAIOANNOU</b>, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, International Relations, and Extroversion, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
13:15-14:15	<b>Lunch</b>
14:15-15:45	<p><b>Session 3 – Digital Humanities in Education and Research</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Julio CAÑERO SERRANO</b>, Vice President for International Relations, University of Alcalá, UNICA Vice President</p> <p><b>Presentations (15’ each):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aliyah MORGENSTERN</b>, Vice Rector European Affairs, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle–Paris 3</li> <li>• <i>Ten Years of In Codice Ratio: Reflections on Knowledge Acquisition and Teaching Methodologies</i>, by <b>Serena AMMIRATI</b>, Associate Professor in Palaeography, Roma Tre University and Principal Investigator of the project CLASSICS (online)</li> <li>• <i>Open Science: A powerful tool for Digital Humanities</i>, by <b>Christos PAPTHEODOROU</b>, Professor, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
15:45-16:15	<b>Coffee break</b>

16:15-17:45

#### **Session 4 – Protecting Humanities against the undesired effects of international rankings**

**Chair: Dimitrios KARADIMAS**, former Vice Rector for Academic and Student Affairs, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Member of the UNICA Steering Committee

**Opening talk (15') by Alexander HASGALL**, Higher Education and Research Policy Expert, former Head of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education

#### **Panel discussion**

- **Tasos CHRISTOFIDES**, Rector, University of Cyprus
- **Alexander HASGALL**, Higher Education and Research Policy Expert, former Head of the EUA Council for Doctoral Education
- **Eleri ROSIER**, Professor of Marketing and Strategy, Cardiff Business School and International Dean for India, Cardiff University
- **João SÀÁGUA**, Rector, NOVA University Lisbon

#### **Q&A**

17:45-18:00

**Closing remarks and farewell**