



# UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS 2013-2014

## Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe

### Belgium

During the 2013-14 reporting period, The Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA) engaged in a number of activities that underscore its on-going commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly notable:

Shortly after becoming affiliated with Scholars at Risk, UNICA and Scholars at Risk organized a [Seminar on Academic Freedom](#), which took place in March of 2013. The conference brought together 34 participants representing 10 UNICA member universities, as well as other HE institutions (University of Cologne, European Humanities University, COMAS Israel), organizations such as the Magna Charta Observatory, the Scholar Rescue Fund, the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF, Netherlands), and a number of threatened scholars. The five-day event provided attendees the opportunity to reflect on the notion of academic freedom, the concept's history, its rationale and principles, as well as the state of academic freedom around the world.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, UNICA partnered with Santander Group and Compostela Workshop to host their 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Workshop, entitled "[Exploring academic collaboration between European and Sub-Saharan Universities](#)". The event took place at the University of Kent's Brussels campus.

UNICA recently hosted two open workshops in promotion of its Green Academic Footprint initiative. The first, titled "[Universities as change agents for the cities' environmental sustainability](#)", was hosted in June of 2013 at the University of Lisbon. The 2014 workshop, "[From strategic tools to Environmental Management Systems: How to strengthen the sustainability policy of your University](#)", took place at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

At the urging of Sapienza University of Rome, UNICA has established working group to support the development of knowledge-based societies in the Southern Mediterranean area through the building of capacity in teaching and research, and the strengthening of academic partnerships in the region. In the framework of the [UNICA General Assembly 2013](#), a seminar bringing together rectors from UNICA member universities and universities in the Southern Mediterranean was held in Rome in November of 2013.

Finally, in December of 2013 and at the request of Scholars at Risk, UNICA hosted the [Expert Meeting on State Responsibility for Protecting Higher Education](#), which was organized by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA). Attendees of the meeting discussed strategies by which they might engage key stakeholders—especially States and members of the international higher education sector—in an open conversation about the importance of protecting higher education and ensuring that the sector can fulfil its vital educational, scientific, economic and cultural roles.