

International Consortium for Educational Development Network Profile

Network Name URL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association for Higher Education Development "Universitas" • https://www.universitas.hr/
Mission / Aim / Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide support for the development of higher education; - promote the quality of higher education; - encourage and promote autonomy, academic freedom, dignity and quality of research and teaching activities at higher education institutions; - provide support for the training and development of higher education teachers - encourage and promote the quality of the higher education environment and its connection with the community and previous levels of education; - popularize science.
Brief History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Association for the Higher Education Development ("Universitas") was founded on June 1, 2000, in Rijeka (Croatia). The main goal of Universitas is the development of higher education in the Republic of Croatia with a special emphasis on improving its quality. Universitas puts a lot of effort into achieving this goal through participation in the debate on higher education at the national and international level, organizing debates and round tables, encouraging and co-organizing courses, workshops and other programs created to contribute professional development of higher education teachers as well as students. Members of Universitas (university teachers, researchers, former and active students, emeritus professors...) are active members of the academic community in Croatia especially when it comes to giving opinions on proposed regulations, guidelines, standards and other acts that are interrelated in the field of activity. • The City Council of the City of Rijeka, at its meeting on March 30, 2021, decided to award the "City of Rijeka Coat of Arms" Gold Plaque in 2021 to the Association for the Advancement of Higher Education Universitas for its outstanding contribution to twenty years of public service in improving higher education. We are extremely honored and delighted to receive this prestigious recognition from the community in which we have been active for twenty years. • In May 2023, Professor Dr. Bojana Ćulum Ilić, one of the founders of the Association, a member of Universitas from its inception, and the current President of Universitas, was awarded the Annual Award of the City of Rijeka for her significant contribution to the development of collaboration between the university and the local community.



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Membership types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual members• 30+ members (On average)
Legal Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal registration (nongovernmental organisation)• https://registri.uprava.hr/#!udruga-detalji/3gUBAAEAAQF1bml2ZXJzaXRh8wAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAABAQFvaeICAaDpAQ
Governance / Operating Structure*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Assembly (all members included)• President of the Association (elected by the Assembly every 2 years)• Steering committee (5 members, elected by the Assembly every 2 years)• Executive committee (4 members + President of the Association; elected by the Assembly every 2 years)• External accounting service• No other kind of administrative support
Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universitas is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation and our main source of finance, from which we cover the costs of our regular activities, is membership fees (the cost of the annual membership fee is about 13 euros). Members of Universitas voluntarily contribute to the work of this organisation. Occasionally, we secure project funding for our smaller project activities.
Activities** Detail separately	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since its establishment, Universitas has organized more than 100 public events (forums, round tables, lectures, etc.), mostly on topics in the field of (higher) education and science, but also on other areas particularly relevant to the community (social responsibility, sustainable development). The topics of the Universitas forums were regularly contextualized into current events (for example, forums on PISA results, education reform, ethical issues in higher education and science). During the years, the guests of Universitas lectures/forums were various (which depends on the topic), such as guests from the international academic community (eg. Steve Johnson (Portland State University), Kathleen Beaudoin (University of Washington), Alistair Ross (London Metropolitan University), Christine Cress and Jennifer Alkezweeny, (University of Portland), Thomas Krautzer (University of Graz), Romita Iucu (University of Bucharest), Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela (University of Ljubljana); (former) President of Republic of Croatia, ministers and assistants of education and science, the Prime Minister's advisor for science but also (equally important) other Croatian scientists and experts.• Focus on students remains an important aspect of Universitas' activities In academic year 2018/2019 and 2019/2020, which can be seen through the implementation of recent projects carried by the younger members of Universitas (for example, Project: UNIKAPS - Academic Writing Competences for Students; Project: "How to be a European?"; Project: UNIMARS: Diligent and active students). Universitas has often been a leader in detecting relevant topics in the environment and new areas of activity. For example, the project "How to be a European" was intended for high school students (cooperation was established with 3 schools, and



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	<p>about a hundred high school students from Rijeka participated in the project). The project was particularly inspired by Rijeka as the European Capital of Culture in 2020. and the need for discussing the topics regarding to Europe and European Union with youth population in our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is especially important to highlight the recent international activity of Universitas: namely, Universitas is a partner in the organization of the 33rd annual conference CHER (Consortium for Higher Education Research) entitled Engaged Universities: (De) constructing the Theory, Practice and Culture of Engagement in Higher Education (2020). Unfortunately, the conference is cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic, but Members of Universitas will actively participate in the organization of this important conference as members of the program and organizing committee (planned for 2021). (https://www.cher-highered.org/cher-conferences/upcoming-cher-conferences/)
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication: <i>Critical Thinking: A Handbook of Critical Thinking, Listening, Reading, and Writing</i> (author: Iva Buchberger; publisher: Universitas; year: 2012)• Publication: <i>Critical Thinking: Peace, Love & Rock and Roll: A Handbook for Teachers</i> (author: Iva Buchberger; publisher: Universitas; year: 2023)
Special initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• /
Connections with other networks, agencies, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperation with Department of Education (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka) and Faculty of Teacher Education, University of Rijeka in terms of organising public events (debates) and educations for teaching staff and students.
Contact Details (name & email)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President: Bojana Čulum Ilić, Ph.D, bojana.culum@ffri.uniri.hr• ICED representative: Ivana Miočić, ivana.miocic@uniri.hr• Administrative Office: no Administrative Office
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/udrugauuniversitas
Other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• /
Date last updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25/9/2023.