



ICA General Assembly 2020

ICA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have all been challenged in our personal and work life by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our universities are adapting to the challenge, and in future may benefit from the positive outcomes of the changes we have been forced to make. The ICA Board and the ICA Standing Committee have reluctantly also had to adapt our activities in the face of the social distancing measures and restrictions on travelling. Sadly, two **Colloquia of our ICA Board Committees** and the planned five **ICA Standing Committee events** for 2020 have all been postponed until 2021. Our annual **ICA Rectors and Deans Forum** will be delivered online.



I make this report on behalf of the ICA Board as I step down as President of ICA. I am very honoured to have been a representative of so noble and important Association. The Board members 2019 – 2020 are listed at the end of my report.

ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2020 - Online

As intimated in my New Year message we had been planning, with our sister organisations in North America, our 2020 Forum focusing on the contribution of Agricultural and Life Science Universities in achieving the 2030 Agenda and beyond. However, the Board decided at our May meeting that in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic senior managers may not wish, or may not be able, to attend a face to face meeting in October.

The Board decided instead to host the 10th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum 2020 – online at 13.30 on Thursday 22 October with two Sessions. The focus of the Forum is **Agricultural and Life Science Universities Responding to Covid-19 and the European Green Deal**.

ICA-Bioeconomy Board Committee

The ICA-Bio Committee is chaired by **Josef GLÖSSL**. ICA-Bio is currently focusing on curricular development for the sustainable circular bioeconomy.

Since the ICA-GA in 2019, ICA-Bio has actively supported the development of the **"European Community of Practice (CoP) for Bioeconomy Education"**. A Working Group was established for developing a "European Community of Practice (CoP) for Bioeconomy Education", chaired by Han VAN OSCH (HZ University of Applied Sciences & Avans University of Applied Science, NL). ICA-Bio is represented by Josef GLÖSSL and Simon HEATH. Further European networks interested in exploring issues relating to the development of curricula for the bioeconomy are represented on the Working Group. Within this **CoP**, the following activities have been developed:

- **CoP Bio-Edu Colloquium: Interdisciplinary Education for the Bioeconomy**. The Colloquium, led by ICA and planned for September 2020 at the Irish College in Leuven, BE, has the focus on the requirement to address the interdisciplinarity of the sustainable circular bioeconomy within domain specific Bachelor degree programmes. It was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic until January 2021 but is likely to be postponed yet again as we watch the continuing impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic. As this will be the inaugural event of the CoP we wish to hold it face to face rather than online.

- **CoP Summer School on Circular Bioeconomy**: Sept. 8-10 and 25 in Thessaloniki, Greece, chaired by Constantinos E. VORGIAS. The Summer School was held as an online event together with about 30 graduate and Master students.

- CoP has supported the development of a **Workshop How to shape education for a sustainable circular bioeconomy?"** to be held online at the **Global Bioeconomy Summit 2020 (GBS2020)**. In order to enable global participation, the workshop will be held twice - on 16 November 16:00 - 18:00 and on 18 November 8:00 - 10:00. In addition to a short Plenary Session in the Workshop, six parallel Break-out Sessions will be held on topics related to the general theme. More details will be available at the webpage of GBS2020, see <https://gbs2020.net/> Registration for online participation at GBS2020 is free of charge.

ICA-Edu Board Committee

ICA-Edu, the Network for Innovation in Life Sciences Higher Education, is chaired by **Barbara HINTERSTOISSER**. ICA-Edu is currently focusing on sustainable entrepreneurial education within the context of the development of students' skills and character.

The planned **ICA-Edu Colloquium** for May 2020 with the title **Action to keep the entrepreneurial genie out of the bottle: engaging students with sustainable entrepreneurial education in your curriculum** had to be postponed until 26 to 28 May 2021 on account of Covid-19 pandemic. It is still planned to be held at Copenhagen University. This Colloquium was a planned follow up to the Colloquium held in 2019. [View the programme](#) at the ICA Website.

ICA-Edu is a partner in the EU Erasmus + Strategic Partnership Project **Innovative Education for Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Life Sciences (INTRINSIC)** led by Andreas ZITEK at BOKU. INTRINSIC aims to empower Life Science Universities to develop their students' Sustainable Entrepreneurship Competencies so as to prepare their graduates to be being effective entrepreneurs and leaders to address the challenges of Europe's sustainable prosperity. Fortunately during the Covid-19 pandemic, the INTRINSIC Project has been able to deliver a series of **Webinars on the theme of embedding entrepreneurship in the curriculum**.

ICA Task Force

The ICA Task Force, announced at the ICA General Assembly 2019, to enhance the engagement of ICA with the EU Commission, the Parliament and other organisations in Brussels for the benefit of ICA Members. The Task Force has held its discussions virtually on account of the Covid-19 pandemic. The ICA Task Force started work in March 2020 and a first report of their deliberations will be made to the ICA General Assembly.

ICA Statutes – revision 2020

ICA General Assembly 2020 will be asked to approve an update of the Statutes. The Statutes have been revised by ICA's lawyers to bring the Statutes into line with the new Belgium law applying to not for profit organisations like ICA. There are no significant changes except the opportunity has been taken to update the definition of the term of office of the President and of Co-opted Board members.

New ICA President and Vice President from ICA General Assembly 2020

I have already announced that at the February ICA Board Meeting the Board elected **Rector Magnificus Arthur Mol**, Wageningen University and Research (WUR), as the incoming President of ICA, and **Rector Hubert Hasenauer**, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), as the incoming ICA Vice President. Both will take office after the October 2020 General Assembly. The Office Bearers of the Board, according to the Statutes, are elected by the Board.

My thanks for your continuing support for ICA

Firstly, thanks to you, our members, for engaging actively in ICA – your networking and contribution in the ICA Rectors and Deans Forum, in the activities of the ICA Board Committees and in the activities of the ICA Standing Committees brings meaning and life to our Association.

I remember well the 2018 milestone, during my Presidency ICA, of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of our Association in Wageningen. The assembled ICA members were very proud of reaching and celebrating that milestone. I look forward to following the future development of ICA resulting of the implementation of the outcomes of the ICA Task Force’s deliberations and other new initiatives for the benefit of you – our members.



I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the **ICA Board Members** for the last four years of fruitful collaboration during my term of office as President; always kind, helpful and really true friendship. It has been a pleasure and honour to work with you all. Without your involvement, it would not have been possible for me to chair ICA.

My special words of thanks also to **Simon HEATH** – ICA Secretary General and to **Dana VYLUPKOWA** ICA Administrator. I am very happy and very lucky that both of you were my closest co-workers. Thank you for everything you have done for ICA and personally for me.

My best congratulations to **Arthur MOL** – incoming President of ICA, Rector of the Wageningen and University Research (WUR), NL and **Hubert HASENAUER** incoming Vice-President of ICA, Rector of University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), AT. I am confident that under their leadership ICA will develop dynamically and rapidly. I wish this with all my heart.

ICA supported the activity of all our Standing Committees and was in close contact with our partner networks: Association of Public and land Grant Universities in the US (APLU), Association of Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (ACFAVM), Global Confederation of Higher Education Association for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA), as well as the student associations the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS) and with the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA).

As stated by **Alex EVANS** in summarising the outcomes of the 2016 Rectors and Deans Forum “**Agriculture and Life Science Universities have the unique challenge of the increasingly multidisciplinary nature of the field, where a broad knowledge of the natural, social and applied sciences are needed to solve the problems that society faces.**” As ICA, our main aims were, are and definitely will continue to be the promotion of agricultural and life sciences not only through education and research but also, especially, through innovations. Innovation must be our hallmark in our special niche in the agricultural and life sciences. Although it sounds like truism, and as a matter of fact it is, which I often repeat “**mankind’s future depends on us**”.

Marek S. Szyndel

President of ICA and Warsaw University of Life Sciences

1 October 2020

The ICA Board 2019 -20**The Office Bearers, forming the ICA Board Executive Committee:**

- **Marek S SZYNDEL**, ICA President, Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS), PL
- **Alex EVANS**, Vice President, University College Dublin (UCD), IE
- **Yvan LARONDELLE**, Treasurer, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), BE
- **Michal LOSTAK**, Secretary to the Board, Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague (CZU), CZ

The ICA Board members elected from the ICA Board Election Constituencies:

- **NORTHERN EUROPE** - **Antanas MAZILIAUSKAS**, Aleksandras Stulginskis University, LT
- **WESTERN EUROPE** - **Arthur MOLL**, Wageningen and University Research (WUR), NL
- **SOUTHERN EUROPE** - **Ana Maria NAZARÉ PEREIRA**, Universidade De Trás-Os-Montes E Alto Douro (UTAD), PT
- **CENTRAL and EASTERN EUROPE** - **Hubert HASENAUER**, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), AT
- **FORMER CIS REPUBLICS** - **Vadym TKACHUK**, National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, UA

Chairs of ICA Committees:

- **Josef GLÖSSL**, Chair of ICA-Bioeconomy Committee, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)
- **Barbara HINTERSTOISSER**, Chair of ICA-Edu Committee University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)

Co-opted ICA Board Members:

- **Philippe CHOQUET**, ICA Board Representative on the GCHERA GA and UniLaSalle, FR
- **Matt TIPS**, President IROICA and KU Leuven, BE

The Board has met three times to date during 2020 and will also meet in October. At the ICA General Assembly 2020 **Marek S SZYNDEL** and **Alex EVANS** will step down from the Board having completed two terms, and **Ana Maria NAZARÉ PEREIRA** resigns from the Board following her retirement from UTAD. At the ICA General Assembly there will be elections to the Board.