



ICA On-line Rectors and Deans Forum 2020

Programme

Agricultural and Life Science Universities Responding to Covid-19 and the European Green Deal

to be held on Thursday 22 October 2020, 13.15 – 18.00
(Central European Summer Time, CEST)

1 Focus

All our universities have been forced to change in the face of the Covid pandemic that has impacted each of our countries so badly. Covid - 19 has affected all aspects of the mission of universities, in education, research, innovation, outreach and also our financial positions. Our universities are adapting to the challenges, and may in future benefit from the positive outcomes of the changes we have been forced to make. Whilst financial sustainability is essential, we must continue to strive for excellence in our mission to make a positive difference around us.

In our first Online ICA Forum for Rectors, Deans and Senior Management we will reflect on these challenges to our universities' missions. The discussions will help to ensure that we are well prepared for the uncertain times ahead. In the next year universities will be faced with the uncertainties posed by the threat of spikes in the occurrence of Covid-19, student recruitment, and research income, and the real possibility of future pandemics.

“Never waste a good crisis to question the norm”.

Nonetheless, the pressing challenges of climate change and addressing the 2030 Agenda must still be high on our universities' agendas. The EU has made the first call for projects under the European Green Deal. In the discipline focus of ICA there are a number of important EU strategies underpinning the European Green Deal: the vision of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Bioeconomy Strategy and the upcoming renewal of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Forum will have two sessions:

- We will reflect in the first session on how the experience of the recent Covid-19 lockdown can make our universities better placed to manage the virus in 2021. We will also highlight how the measures taken in lockdown may have a positive impact on our university model in the future.
- In the second session, looking beyond the current crisis, we will engage with the opportunities provided for our agricultural and life science universities by the European Green Deal. In particular, we will focus on the Commission's ambitions of the Farm to Fork Strategy.

2 Session Format

Each session will have three keynote presentations reflecting on these challenges and opportunities followed by delegate discussions in several online breakout rooms – with 8 to 10 delegates in each breakout room to share experience. Finally, there will be a report back at the end of each session with the possibility to propose future Webinars on particular issues.

3 Programme

13.15 - CEST Welcome and Introductions

13.30 – 15.30 CEST

Session 1 Disruption of our agricultural and life science universities in 2020, what we have learnt for future management

Speaker 1: Higher Education 2030: a decade of disruption for sustainable development

Daniella Tilbury, Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations, HM Government of Gibraltar, Gibraltar, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Gibraltar and Hon. Fellow, Cambridge University, UK

Speaker 2: Will the disruption of Covid-19 irreversibly change teaching and learning in our traditional European universities for the better?

Stefano Cesco, Former Dean Faculty of Science and Technology, Free University of Bolzano-Bozen, Italy

Speaker 3: What are the medium to long term implications of Covid-19 on universities' research, innovation programmes and engagement with society, defining a roadmap forward.

Martin Scholten, Principle Advisor European Affairs to the Board of Directors, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands

Round table discussions: "Defining exit strategies from the 2020 disruption of agricultural and life science universities caused by Covid-19" – 40 minutes.

In moderated breakout groups of about 8 to 10 people. The delegates in each group will be able to see themselves online in the discussion.

When you register online for the Forum you will be able to choose to start your discussion session focusing on either "education and student engagement" or "research and innovation", and then there would be the possibility to switch to the other topic in the same breakout group.

Report back to whole group by discussion Chairs

Expected Outcome: Shared experience and proposed topics for future Webinars to expand the discussion on topics of specific concern, e.g. mental health of students, equality and equity for education of campus based and distance learners.

15.30 – 16.00 Virtual Coffee Break

/ Second Session 16.00 – 18.00

16.00 – 18.00 CEST

Session 2 Defining the opportunities of the Farm to Fork Strategy and the European Green Deal for Agricultural and Life Science Universities

Speaker 1: 21st Century Challenges - EGD and the Importance of Natural Resources Management

Janez Potočnik, Co-Chair International Resource Panel, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Partner SYSTEMIQ

Speaker 2: The ambition of the Farm to Fork Strategy

Luis Vivas-Alegre, Policy Coordinator, Unit Farm to Fork Strategy, Directorate General on Health and Food Safety, European Commission

Speaker 3: Reflections on the current US Policies towards transitioning to a Green Economy

Douglas L Steele, Vice President Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), US

Round table discussions: “Priorities for our universities in responding to the challenge of the Farm to Fork Strategy”. 40 minutes

In moderated breakout groups of about 8 to 10 people. The delegates in each group will be able to see themselves online in the discussion.

Report back to whole group by discussion Chairs

Expected Outcome: Reflection of the opportunities for agricultural and life science universities within the EU Green Deal policy and call. Proposals of how ICA might support the engagement of ICA members with these strategies.

4 Forum Audience

The Forum seeks to attract those who are in charge of strategic decision making in Universities /Faculties of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The ICA invites **Rectors, Vice Rectors and Deans**, and persons of equivalent status in their university, college, school or faculty being responsible for education, research and innovation to participate in the Forum.

All staff are invited to this online event from ICA Member and Non-member agricultural and life science institutions. Registrations are invited from the US and Canada.

5 Registration

Registration is free but you need to register to be given access to the meeting room.

[Register](https://forms.gle/vonCfVpRTfMXx4Uf6) at <https://forms.gle/vonCfVpRTfMXx4Uf6>

5 More Information?

Please contact
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