

2023 European Learning & Teaching Forum
Connecting people, spaces and realities
Hosted by the University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain
2-3 February 2023

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Deadline for submission: 7 October 2022

Context and objectives

An initiative launched by the European University Association in 2017, the European Learning & Teaching Forum is an opportunity for the European higher education community to exchange on institutional practice in learning and teaching and European higher education policy. The Forum welcomes members of higher education institutions, in particular vice-rectors for academic affairs, deans, heads of learning and teaching centres, as well as management and students, but also policy-makers and other stakeholders.

For the upcoming 2023 Forum “Connecting people, spaces and realities”, EUA invites proposals presenting practice and research on higher education learning and teaching at institutional, national or international level. Proposals may take the form of a paper, a workshop or a practice presentation.

High-quality learning environments depend on well-functioning communication and a community of practice connecting learners, teachers, and other staff, but also on their capacity to relate to partner universities as well as local or regional stakeholders. These diverse inner- and inter-institutional connections are critical for initiating and sustaining innovation in learning and teaching, be it in view of developing transformative practices or promoting the wellbeing of members of a higher education institution. Yet, what can higher education institutions do to foster meaningful connections and collaboration within and across institutions, and with society, with a view to supporting successful learning and teaching? The 2023 European Learning & Teaching Forum seeks to explore these questions, while considering the enhanced range of opportunities that blended, flexible and collaborative learning and teaching practices offer, as well as how they are related to student and staff wellbeing.

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the Forum provides a platform for discussion on how universities enhance learning and teaching, while also presenting the work of the [2022 EUA Learning & Teaching Thematic Peer Groups](#). The proposals are thus expected to stimulate interaction and discussion with the participants, thus enhancing peer learning.

DISCLAIMER: The parameters of this call are based on current projections and may change depending on any sanitary measures required of the host university (e.g. restrictions on the maximum number of people in a workshop) at the time of the event. If required by force majeure, such as the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Forum will be turned into an online event. EUA staff will keep selected event contributors informed about prevailing restrictions or requirements and their implications for the Forum sessions.

When preparing your proposal, please bear in mind the diverse backgrounds of participants and focus on the transferability of results and practices to increase the relevance of your contribution.

Types of contributions

Your submission should relate to the Forum theme “Connecting people, spaces and realities”. It may be based on research (i.e. analysing concepts or data related to learning and teaching with discussion on the implications for policy or practice). Alternatively, submissions may present an institutional case study or policy approaches at national or European level, analysing the success factors, challenges encountered, possible shortcomings and transferability to other contexts.

Please pay special attention to your abstract: it should be concise, correspond to the content of the contribution, appeal to the participants and have a succinct title. This is important as the abstract will be published on the [Forum webpage](#) and in the event app. It will guide Forum participants in their decision on which session to attend.

If selected, EUA reserves the right to amend the abstract in order to ensure that it accurately reflects the content of the proposed session and is linguistically correct.

There are three types of possible contributions. Please choose the most suitable type of contribution based on the kind of input and added value the session is meant to provide.

1) Papers

All papers are expected to be research-based, and to contain:

- an introduction providing background information on the rationale behind the paper;
- a research question or hypothesis;
- a methodological introduction outlining the approach and, if applicable, rationale behind the data/material selection;
- a body outlining the available data/material and a concise analysis thereof;
- a clear conclusion;
- bibliographic references.

Paper sessions should present a new study, challenge current research, or explore the applicability of existing research. They should invite the audience to engage in a critical and constructive discussion on the key points and results of the presentation.

Paper sessions will take place during time slots of 40 minutes each. The session should allow for enough interaction and discussion time with the audience. If presenters would like to provide a PowerPoint presentation, this part of the session should not exceed 20 minutes.

A paper proposal should:

- identify the author(s), and, in the case of co-authored papers, indicate who will be responsible for presenting the paper at the Forum;
- include the authors' short biographies (up to 150 words each);
- consist of a fully written paper of a maximum of 3000 words (excluding references¹);
- be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150 words and up to five key words;
- be written in English.

¹ Please apply the Harvard style system (UK spelling) for text and bibliography.

The papers will be assessed by members of the EUA Learning & Teaching Steering Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- the paper meets the quality standards of research publication practice;
- the paper matches the Forum theme;
- the paper has a clear focus that will be of interest to the participants;
- the argument, development and structure are logical, coherent and understandable and the language is correct;
- the paper has the potential to sustain a lively discussion;
- the paper looks at transferability beyond the original context;
- no proposal for commercial purposes will be accepted.

[Paper submission form](#)

2) Workshops

Workshop sessions will take place during a time slot of 90 minutes each. Proposals for workshops should focus on providing participants (up to 30) with a structured exercise to enhance their understanding of a specific topic, or provide hands-on practical advice on how to implement or use specific tools as well as tangible solutions to current challenges. The focus in the workshops should be on participant activity rather than a presentation by the session facilitator(s). Collaborative workshop proposals, submitted by a team of contributors representing different institutions, institutional levels or types of actors and stakeholders, are encouraged.

The proposal should:

- identify the facilitator(s);
- include the authors' short biographies (up to 150 words each);
- identify the target audience for the session;
- explain the main objectives/intended learning outcomes;
- explain the activity to be carried out during the session, including timing for each activity;
- specify any practical requirements (materials, audio-visual, room layout, etc.);
- be no more than 700 words long;
- be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150 words and up to five key words;
- be written in English.

Any supplementary session materials (e.g. questionnaires) should be added to the submission form.

DISCLAIMER: In the event that the Forum is finally turned into an online event due to force majeure, authors of successful workshop proposals will be expected to revise the planned activities to ensure a useful online workshop, or given the option to conduct their session in a different format altogether, such as a presentation. Authors of workshop proposals are thus advised to already consider a possible alternative approach when drafting their proposal.

Proposals will be assessed by members of the EUA Learning & Teaching Steering Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- the topic and objectives of the session are clear and relevant to the Forum theme and audience;
- the topic looks at transferability beyond the original context;
- the level and type of participant activity aim to sustain lively engagement with the audience in a hands-on way, which is geared towards providing tangible and actionable take-aways;

- the activity description is coherent, understandable and comprehensive enough to provide a clear picture of the session;
- no proposal for commercial purposes will be accepted.

EUA strongly encourages selected facilitators to prepare their activities carefully, and manage the timing of these effectively. They should also be prepared to adapt their activity to the final number of participants.

[Workshop proposal form](#)

3) Practice presentation

Practice presentations are expected to share and discuss experiences with a particular practice or approach at the institutional, local, regional, national or European level in a self-reflective and critical way, or to test ideas for new initiatives and receive feedback from participants. Submissions of this kind should invite participants to reflect on whether lessons learnt from this practice or approach could be transferable to their contexts, allowing the audience to exchange on similar experiences and on how they compare to the presented practice. To ensure audience engagement, presentations will be limited to 7 minutes and be followed by a discussion with the audience. Up to three successful proposals for practice presentations on similar topics will be grouped together in one session of 40 minutes, which implies that you may be asked to adapt to the final outline of the session.

The proposal should:

- identify the author(s), and, in the case of a co-authored proposal, indicate who will be responsible for presenting it at the Forum;
- include the authors' short biographies (up to 150 words each);
- be clearly and concisely written, and a maximum of 800 words;
- aim to present a particular practice or approach, including an explanation of why the presented topic is considered relevant for the Forum audience, a critical analysis of challenges, benefits and problem-solving strategies, as well as lessons learnt;
- be written in English.

The proposals will be assessed by members of the EUA Learning & Teaching Steering Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- the proposal matches the Forum theme;
- the proposal is coherent, understandable and comprehensive enough to provide a clear picture of the practice suggested for presentation;
- the proposal presents a practice deemed relevant for the Forum participants and lessons learnt from it are transferable to diverse contexts;
- the presented practice has the potential to sustain a lively discussion;
- no proposal for commercial purposes will be accepted.

[Practice presentation proposal form](#)

Submission

All proposals should be submitted using the forms linked to this call, in Word format and in one single file, to LTForum@eua.eu. Please do not send a hard copy, PDF file or PowerPoint presentation. All proposals will be reviewed separately by two members of the EUA Learning & Teaching Steering Committee.

You will be informed from late November onwards if your proposal has been accepted. Selected proposals may receive comments on how they should be amended before the Forum. Please note that due to limited resources, no comments can be provided on unsuccessful proposals.

Unless the author indicates otherwise, all selected papers and presentations will be posted on the EUA website after the event and the papers will be assigned an ISSN number.

All correspondence will be by e-mail.

IMPORTANT: If you have submitted a paper or workshop proposal, please do not register for the Forum online until the results of the selection process have been announced. Authors of selected paper and workshop contributions will benefit from a fee reduction, which will be applied through a special registration process. Please note that a special registration fee will be awarded only to one author per paper or workshop contribution, and only to representatives of [EUA member institutions](#).

Deadline

The deadline to submit proposals is **7 October 2022**. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

Calendar

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| June 2022 | Launch of the call for papers. |
| 7 October 2022 | Full proposals must be submitted in Word format using the form linked to this call to LTForum@eua.eu . |
| November 2022 | Notification of acceptance or rejection is sent by e-mail. Abstracts of accepted proposals are published on the Forum website. |
| December 2022 | Information regarding the date and time of sessions at the Forum is provided. |
| 1 February 2023 | An introductory session and reception for Forum presenters is organised in the evening. |
| 2-3 February 2023 | 2023 European Learning & Teaching Forum takes place at the University of Deusto. |

EUA Learning & Teaching Steering Committee members

- Anne Lequy, former Rector, Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, Germany (chair)
- Romita Iucu, President of Board of Trustees, University of Bucharest, Romania
- Ruben Janssens, Executive Committee Member, European Students' Union
- Manel Jiménez-Morales, Commissioner for Communication and Education, Pompeu Fabra University – Barcelona, Spain
- Stephanie Marshall, Vice Principal for Education, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom
- Marja Sutela, Vice-President, Tampere University, Finland
- Manuel João Tavares Mendes Costa, Pro-Rector, University of Minho, Portugal
- Marta Žuvić, Vice-Rector for Quality Assurance and Enhancement, University of Rijeka, Croatia

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