

2023 European Learning & Teaching Forum

Connecting people, spaces and realities

2-3 February 2023, hosted by the University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain

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 relate to student and staff wellbeing.

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the Forum provides a platform for discussion and exchange of practice on how universities enhance learning and teaching. The Forum also presents the work of the [2022 EUA Learning & Teaching Thematic Peer Groups](#). It aims to gather higher education professionals working at different levels on matters of learning and teaching to exchange and discuss institutional practice and policy developments. The Forum is an ideal event for vice-rectors for academic affairs, deans, heads of learning and teaching centres, and management involved in learning and teaching. It also welcomes students, policy-makers and other stakeholders in higher education.

Draft programme (as of 19 August 2022)

Wednesday, 1 February

Pre-Forum meetings (by invitation only)

- 11.00-13.00 Steering Committee meeting
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch and registration for Steering Committee and Thematic Peer Group members
- 14.00-17.45 Pre-Forum workshop for members of the Thematic Peer Groups
- 17.30-18.30 Registration for the Forum
- 18.00-19.30 Reception for Key Players and Thematic Peer Group members

Thursday, 2 February

- 08.30-17.30 Registration
- 09.30-10.45 **Official Opening and Plenary Session I**
Moving together or pulling in different directions? On flexibility and (dis)connection

The past years have witnessed an ever-increasing drive towards more digital and blended learning and teaching models within higher education institutions, culminating in the near-total digitalisation of education provision during the Covid-19 pandemic. As higher education institutions retain flexible education, they can grant not only students but also teachers and other staff members more freedom than ever before to adjust their working time and mode to their needs and rhythms. As this may change the way collaboration takes place within an institution, it is time to take stock of different modalities of intra-institutional collaboration and consider their value for the improvement of learning and teaching. This session will discuss how individuals within an institution combine the best of flexibility and connection for the benefit of the learning and teaching process.

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.45 **Breakout Sessions A**

These parallel sessions are based on the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and the call for contributions.

12.45-14.15 Networking lunch

14.15-15.45 **Breakout Sessions B**

These parallel sessions are based on the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and the call for contributions.

15.45-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-17.30 **Plenary Session II**

Strength in numbers: strategic approaches to collaboration in higher education

The positive impact of educational collaboration between higher education institutions and with non-higher education actors has long been considered a given, but this session takes a step back and asks what added value lies in collaborative teaching practice. Is there evidence for a positive impact of teaching collaboration for students, their learning outcomes, the teachers themselves or, further, at the societal level? This session will seek answers to these questions based on available data and case studies from educational institutions and non-education actors.

19.00 Dinner

Friday, 3 February

09.30-11.00 **Breakout Sessions C**

These parallel sessions are based on the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and the call for contributions.

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.45 **Plenary Session III**

Talking to bots and avatars: are high-tech campuses the future?

Across Europe and elsewhere, numerous projects are underway to establish and further develop highly technologised campuses, allowing students, teachers and other university staff to study, work and interact with the help of virtual environments, artificial intelligence and – perhaps in the not so distant future –

robotics. But are these tools a fad, a niche phenomenon, or the future of higher education provision? This session will explore which lessons have been learnt so far, what the effect of digitalised and technologised campuses on learning and teaching as well as student and teacher interaction is, and whether they meet our expectations on data security, accessibility, and sustainability.

12.45-13.00 **Conference closing and invitation to the 2024 European Learning & Teaching Forum**

13.00-14.00 Lunch and departure of participants