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 31 January)

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.

- Official Forum opening by Anne Lequy, Chair of the EUA Learning & Teaching Steering Committee and EUA Board member
- Alastair Creelman, E-learning expert, EDEN Senior Fellow and DIGI-HE Advisory Board member, formerly at Linnæus University, Sweden
- Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich, Welfare Officer, University College Dublin Students' Union, Ireland
- Chaired by Anne Lequy

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
From 13.30 onwards, during the lunch break, participants may choose to attend an interactive session on the key elements and objectives of the EHEA and the EEA entitled "European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and European Education Area (EEA) – What's the difference?".
- Michael Gaebel, Director of Higher Education Policy, EUA
- Maria Kelo, Director of Institutional Development, EUA

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**
Strategic approaches to collaboration in higher education: Experiences from the European university alliances
Educational collaboration between higher education institutions, as well as with non-higher education actors, is generally considered to have a positive impact on the quality of learning and teaching. This session puts this common conviction to the test by asking what added value lies in joint programmes and learning design, based on the experience of various European university alliances. A panel during this session will share lessons learnt, the strategy behind the design of different forms of joint education provision, their evolution and associated challenges, as well as unique benefits.
- Kevin Guillaume, Secretary General, Circle U. European University Alliance
- László Zentai, Vice-Rector for Education, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary, CHARM EU European University Alliance
- Alois Frotschnig, Chairperson of University of Applied Sciences Board, University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten, Austria, E³UDRES² European University Alliance

- Chaired by Marta Žuvić, Vice-Rector, University of Rijeka, Croatia

19.00   Dinner

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.
- Heli Harrikari, Strategic Lead, ECIU European University Alliance
- Birgit Lugrin, Head of Media Informatics, Julius-Maximilians University of Würzburg, Germany
- Diana Andone, Director of e-Learning Centre, Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania
- Chaired by Manel Jiménez-Morales, Vice-Rector for Educational Transformation, Culture and Communication, Pompeu Fabra University – Barcelona, Spain

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

13.00-14.00   Lunch and departure of participants

14.00-15.00   Steering Committee meeting (by invitation only)

For more information about the breakout sessions, please consult the list of abstracts.