

2026 European Learning & Teaching Forum

12-13 February 2026, hosted by Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon, Portugal

Impactful staff development for educational transformation

How can higher education safeguard its fitness-for-purpose and relevance as artificial intelligence rises, demographics change and labour market demands and learning needs evolve?

These developments, as well as larger-scale societal shifts towards a knowledge economy, point to a need for more innovative approaches to learning and teaching. With this in mind, the next edition of the European Learning & Teaching Forum will focus on how staff development can be (re-)designed to facilitate innovation in learning and teaching to create systemic impact on student learning, by delving into questions such as:

- How can institutions develop their staff's capacity to adequately use – and perhaps even themselves develop – innovative pedagogical methods, resources and tools?
- Which approaches work to give due support and recognition to early adopters, and how can their impact be evaluated?
- How can staff be equipped with the agility to adapt to and tackle future educational challenges, and be encouraged to become innovators themselves?

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the Forum provides a platform for discussion and exchange of practice on how universities enhance, innovate and transform learning and teaching. The 2026 Forum will also include an exclusive preview of the work of EUA's [2025 Learning & Teaching Thematic Peer Groups](#), comprised of universities from across Europe.

Gathering a wide range of learning and teaching professionals 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

Wednesday, 11 February

Pre-Forum meetings (by invitation only)

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| 11.30-13.30 | Steering Committee meeting |
| 13.30-14.30 | Lunch and registration for Steering Committee and Thematic Peer Group members |
| 14.30-18.00 | Pre-Forum workshop for members of the Thematic Peer Groups |
| 18.00-19.30 | Reception for Key Players and Thematic Peer Group members |

Thursday, 12 February

- 08.30-17.30 Registration
- 09.00-09.30 **EUA in a Nutshell**
This is an interactive introductory session for “EUA newcomers” and everybody else with an interest in what the association does and how it works.
- 09.45-10.00 **Official Forum Opening**
- 10.00-10.45 **Opening Plenary**
Exploring the what, why and how of educational transformation
This session will challenge the audience to jointly (re)consider our current understanding of educational transformation:
- What does transformation mean and what kind of innovation and change do we hope to achieve in higher education? To what degree can we actually transform learning and teaching, without stripping it of its essential educational, economic and societal functions? And which approaches to transforming education go beyond revamped packaging and actually achieve true innovation and added value for students? These and other questions will be the topic of this opening session.
- Emilie Malcourant, Teaching Consultant, Louvain Learning Lab/University of Louvain, Belgium
 - Further session contributors will be announced soon.
- 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.
- 12.45-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 **Breakout Sessions B**
These parallel sessions are based on the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and the call for contributions.
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00-17.30 **Breakout Sessions C**
These parallel sessions are based on the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and the call for contributions.
- 19.30 Dinner

Friday, 13 February

- 09.30-11.00 **Breakout Sessions D**
These parallel sessions are based on the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and the call for contributions.

- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-12.30 **Closing Plenary**
Connecting the dots: how to create lasting impact through staff development
How can staff development be (re-)designed to have a greater and longer-lasting effect on the quality and relevance of higher education?
- As the Forum draws to a close, this session will explore the bigger picture of how to design staff development that will truly help to cultivate innovative learning and teaching. It will do so through a keynote intervention, comics based on selected Forum sessions, a panel discussion and audience engagement as participants reflect on current evidence and experiences.
- Katarina Mårtensson, Professor of Higher Education and Academic Developer, Lund University, Sweden
 - Further speakers will be announced soon.
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch
- 13.30-14.15 **Policy Update**
- 14.15-14.30 **Forum Closing**
- 14.30-15.00 Farewell coffee