

Programme EUI Symposium

2-3 July 2026

WU Wien

Date and time	Session title	Speaker/chair	Venue
Thursday, 2 July 2026			
8:00 - 9:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee		Entrance B D4
9:00 - 9:30	Introduction to the Symposium	Oliver Vettori (WU Wien) and Nadia Manzoni (CEU)	Auditorium D4
	Welcome Address	Prof. Rupert Sausgruber, Rector (WU Wien)	Auditorium D4
	Introduction of ENGAGE.EU alliance	Representative of ENGAGE.EU	Auditorium D4
9:30-10:30	Keynote speech	<p>Manja Klemenčič: <i>Student agency and transformative effects of European Universities alliances on students</i></p> <p>Manja Klemenčič is Senior Researcher at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana and associated with the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University where she was an award-winning lecturer since 2014. She researches, teaches, and acts as a consultant in sociology, politics and policies of higher education, innovation and youth. She serves as Co-editor of <i>European Journal of Higher Education, Understanding Student Experiences in Higher Education</i> (Bloomsbury) and <i>Higher Education Dynamics</i> (Springer), and as a consultant for the European Commission, other international organizations, and governments.</p>	Auditorium D4
10:30 - 10:45	Comfort break		
10:45-12:00	Parallel Paper Session A 'Time goes by so slowly': Persisting barriers and policy challenges Chair: TBC		D5.0.002
	Paper 1	From Alliances to policy platforms: European University Alliances and the Joint European	

		Degree Label as an implementation “stress test” Fernando Galán (EU-CONEXUS) and Laura Howard, University of Cadiz	
	Paper 2	Complement or Complication? Convergences and Divergences between the European Degree Label and the European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes Aleksandar Šušnjar (EQAR) and Ana Tomaško Obradović (YUFE)	
	Paper 3	Governance through Work Packages: Guiding the Next Steps or Hindering Transformation? Bureaucratic Walls Within and Around Alliances Antonin Charret, University of Oxford and Daniela Craciun, University of Twente (CHEPS)	
	Paper 4	Theoretically informed analyses of the European Universities Initiative: exploring the value of policy theory. Andrew Gunn, University of Manchester, Marina Cino Pagliarello, European University Institute	
	Parallel Paper Session B Institutional experimentation(s) and transformation(s) Chair:		D5.1.001
	Paper 5	European University Alliances as Internationalisation Laboratories: Evidence, Gaps, and the UCO-INVEST Case David Ruz Velasco, University of Cordoba (INVEST)	
	Paper 6	Towards a Typology of Transnational Skills Initiatives: Mapping Governance Logics and Principal Actors Alina Felder-Stindt, University of Pompeu Fabra	
	Paper 7	European University Alliances as Drivers of Organisational Change: Structures and Professional Reconfigurations in Italy Agata Mannino, Chemnitz University of Technology (ACROSS); Francesco Girotti, University of Bologna (UNA EUROPA); Alberto Forte, University of Pavia (EC2U); Francesca Valente, University of Florence (EUniWell).	
	Paper 8	Acting without agency? – Conceptualising university alliances as organisational actors Oliver Vettori, WU Vienna and Johanna Warm, WU Vienna	

12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break		
13:00 - 14:30	Parallel Paper Session C From project management to institutional governance Chair: Dominik Antonowicz		D5.0.002
	Paper 9	From Fragile Cooperation to Institutional Ecosystems: An Ecological Model of European University Alliances Patricia Oliveira-Silva, Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Transform4Europe)	
	Paper 10	From Project Coordination to Institutional Integration? Governance Logics within European Universities Initiative Alliances Magdalena Sikorska, Poznan University of Technology (EUNICE)	
	Paper 11	From Motor to Hub to Catalyst? The Governance of Engagement Formats in (European) University Alliances David Joshua Schröder, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	
	Paper 12	The Integration Gap in European University Alliances: Structural asymmetry, legitimacy and the role of external consultants Eloi Bigas and Adriana Oliveres (SIRIS Academic)	
	Parallel Paper Session D Cacophonies or dissonance? Misalignment(s) between policy and practice Chair: Laura Howard		D5.1.001
	Paper 13	Constructing Europe by Mobilising Diversity: Discourses of Equity and Inclusion in the European Universities Initiative Daniel Schumann, Freie University Berlin; Kathrin Zippel, Freie University Berlin (UNA Europa)	
	Paper 14	The talk-action inconsistency of European University Alliances: The Case of Public Portuguese Universities Cunha, Estella; Pereira, P.; Carvalho, T.; University of Aveiro, (CIPES)	
	Paper 15	Challenges as a Transnational Governance Means in European Education and Training. The	

		cases of the European Universities Initiative and Centres of Vocational Excellence Agata A. Lambrechts, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training; Marcelo Marques, University of Luxembourg; Lukas Graf, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training	
	Paper 16	The Impact of University Alliances on Universities' Institutional Transformation in the Western Balkans Nikola Savic, University of Belgrade and Viki Menczel, University of Vienna (Circle U.)	
14:30-14:45	Comfort break		
14:45 - 15:45	Panel Discussion Defining and assessing impact of European University Alliances - different perspectives	Moderator: Andra Mirona Stan-Dragotesc Panelists: Exploring multi-level institutional barriers to monitoring and evaluating the impact of European University Alliances Audrey Sullivan-Reilly, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) officer (Circle. U) Making transformation visible: Contribution analysis as a qualitative evaluation framework for the EUI Alexander Frame, Université Bourgogne Europe (FORTHEM); Caroline Censier-Calmus, French Ministry of Higher Education Measuring the Metaphor - European Universities Unraveled Peter van der Hijden, independent higher education strategy advisor, Robert Wagenaar, University of Groningen; Member Board of Directors European University Alliance ENLIGHT. The contribution of the European Higher Education Sector Observatory (EHESO) to monitoring the European University Initiative Flavia Colus, PPMI; Benedetto Lepori, Austrian Institute of Technology	Auditorium D4
15:45 - 16:15	Coffee break		Auditorium D4

16:15 - 17:30	Parallel interactive workshop A Democratic innovations in the EUAs. How to foster citizenship in diverse settings: co-creation, representation, education.	Convenors: Timothy James Marshall, University of Stavanger Karol Leja, University of Tampere, Ryan Wakamiya, University of Twente, Michel Varelija, Research Coordinator (EURECA-PRO)	Lounge D4.1.224
	Parallel interactive workshop B Measuring What Matters? Co-designing a Framework for the Social Impact of European University Alliances in Non-EU Contexts	Convenors: Dr. Adina Fodor, Babeş-Bolyai University Prof. Dr. Can Yücesoy, Boğaziçi University (NeurotechEU) Prof. Dr. Zuhail Okan, Çukurova University (EUPeace) Dr. Esin Aksay Aksezer, Koç University (UNIC)	Seminar Room D4.0.022
	Parallel campfire session	Facilitators: Francesco Girotti and Agata Mannino <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empowering Professional Staff for Alliance Transformation: The Strategic Contribution of HR Leadership Dr. Juliana Velasquez Ochoa, University of Bologna (UNA EUROPA) 2. New Roles and Interactions in the Ecosystem of Teaching in Transnational Higher Education: CHARM Alliance Perspective Nataliia Lazebna, University of Würzburg (CHARM-EU) 3. CIVICA Service to Society: Impacts and Challenges of a European University Alliance Dunja Milenkovic, Central European University (CIVICA) 4. Participatory Models for Multi-Level Community Engagement: Lessons from the EUPeace Living Peace Lab Birgit Strotmann, Comillas Pontifical University, (EUPeace) 	Analog room D4.1.206

		<p>5. From Experimentation to Consolidation: Evaluating Blended Intensive Programmes in the CIVIS Alliance</p> <p>Alexandru CARȚIȘ, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences (CIVIS)</p>	
18:00	Dinner	WU Vienna	Auditorium D4
20:00	Social event	Pub quiz with quizzmaster Antonin Charret VOLEE im WAC, Rustenschacherallee 9, 1020 Wien	
Friday 3 July 2026			
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome Coffee		Auditorium D4
09:00 – 10:00	Keynote Speech	<p>Jelena Brankovic: <i>Alliances and the Metrics Trap</i></p> <p>Jelena Brankovic is a senior researcher at the Robert K. Merton Center for Science Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she leads the DFG-funded project "Datafying Universities." Her research focuses on the quantification and metric-based governance of higher education, university rankings, and the history and sociology of knowledge infrastructures. She is co-chair of CoARA's TURN—Thinking Critically about University Rankings working group and has served as an independent expert for the European Commission since 2017. She holds a PhD from Ghent University and a joint MA from the Universities of Oslo, Tampere, and Aveiro. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Belgrade.</p>	Auditorium D4
10:00 - 11:00	Poster session	<p>1. European Universities Alliances as Platforms for Research Collaboration Anna Stina Sinisalo, University of Helsinki (UNA EUROPA)</p> <p>2. When Data collection requires institutional transformation Christine Marburger, Technische Universität Darmstadt (Unite!)</p> <p>3. Designing A Multidimensional Impact Assessment Framework For Mission-Driven Research Clusters Within Higher Education</p>	Auditorium D4

		<p>Context: An Impact Analysis Of Eelisa Communities Hale İlkçakın, Istanbul Technical University (EELISA); Teresa Sánchez-Chaparro, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid; Börte Köse Mutlu, Istanbul Technical University</p> <p>4. Expand university cooperation and its impact on stakeholders (and strengthen funding options) Joao Cortez, Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Transform4Europe); Francisco Mendes-Palma, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, (Transform4Europe)</p> <p>5. Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in European Universities Alliances: An Exploratory Analysis Nathan Carvalho (CIPES); Maria J. Rosa, University of Aveiro</p> <p>6. Entrepreneurship and Innovation in European Universities Alliances: Added Value and Challenges of Transnational Collaboration Flavia Colus (PPMI), Ieva Grumbinaite (PPMI)</p> <p>7. Mapping Ecosystem-Oriented Alliances: A Cluster Analysis of Universities of Applied Sciences within the European Universities Initiative María-Teresa Aceytuno, University of Huelva, Brigitte Kürsteiner; Berner Fachhochschule (PIONEER)</p> <p>8. Who Shapes the Alliance? The Role of Academic Staff and Rectors in Constructing Organisational Identity Alexandra Hashem-Wangler, Hochschule Bremen–City University of Applied Sciences (STARS EU)</p> <p>9. Grassroots initiatives within a formal European University alliance: A case study of BioYUFE Nicholas J. Bradshaw, University of Rijeka (YUFE)</p>	
	<p>Future Learning Experience Lab Tours</p>	<p>In 30 min intervals, 2 groups of 8-10 participants will depart on a guided visit to the virtual lab at WU Vienna (ENGAGE.EU).</p>	<p>Entrance B D4</p>

11:00 – 11:15	Comfort break		
11:15 - 12:30	Parallel Paper Session E What space(s) for research and innovation? Chair: Daniel Izsak		D5.0.002
	Paper 17	Pathways to successful bottom-up collaboration in European University Alliances: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis of Joint Call applications in the EELISA Alliance Nina Walker, ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences (EELISA)	
	Paper 18	Fostering European Identity and Alliance Sense of Belonging through Research Outputs: The EUt+ Common Affiliation as an Integrative Governance Instrument Emilija Sarma, European University of Technology Alliance (EUt+)	
	Paper 19	Transnational Doctoral Ecologies: Socialisation and Learning in European University Alliances Dr Que Anh Dang, Coventry University; Professor Giovanna Del Gobbo, Florence University	
	Paper 20	A Conceptual Framework for Re-thinking Doctoral Learning in European Universities Margaux Kersschot, University of Antwerp	
	Parallel Paper Session F Triggering national reforms and legal changes Chair Aleksandar Šušnjar		D5.1.001
	Paper 21	European Universities as emerging legal actors: multi-level legal innovation in transnational higher education governance Juan Ramon Real, University of Huelva (PIONEER)	
	Paper 22	Balancing Institutional Autonomy and Transnational Cooperation: The Challenge of Adopting a Legal Entity for European University Alliances Hedwig Unger, University of Graz	
	Paper 23	European University Alliances as political actors in the 3rd wave of Europeanisation Nadia Manzoni, Central European University	
	Paper 24	An evidence-based analysis of the impact of European Universities Alliances in Romania Andra Mirona Stan-Dragotesc, West University of Timisoara, Romania (UNITA)	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch & Networking		Auditorium D4
13:30 - 15:00	Parallel Paper Session G From participation to leadership: what role(s) for students?		D5.0.002

	Chair: TBC		
Paper 25	Student Participation in European University Alliances: a realistic diagnosis Giulia Rebecca Conte, Central European University/Science Po (CIVICA)		
Paper 26	Where are the students in “student-centred” alliances? Governance design and the structural limits of institutional anchoring in the European Universities Initiative Tea Toth, University of Warwick (EUTOPIA)		
Paper 27	Alliances as Enablers and Beneficiaries of Pedagogical Innovation: Evidence from the EUC Voices Initiative Marina Auclair, Sciences Po Paris (EUC Voices); Constance Chevallier-Govers, University Grenoble Alpes		
Paper 28	From Performance to Practice: Democracy is not a Learning Outcome Niki Kasis, European University Viadrina (ERUA); Julia Carvalho Bandeira, Université Paris 8 (ERUA)		
Parallel Paper Session H Avant-garde research trends and emerging research topics Chair and discussant: Alina Felder-Stindt			D5.1.001
Papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Plan for PhD Study on European University Alliances and the Entrepreneurial Transformation of Universities: A Multi-Level Study of the HEROES Alliance Anne-Maria Mäkelä, Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (HEROES) 2. Institutional Habitus and Sensemaking of Alliance Membership: Perspectives from Different Institutional Contexts in Türkiye Pelin Yuce, Middle East Technical University 3. Student Participation in European University Alliance’s Governance Jorge A. Ribeiro-Pereira, University of Aveiro (ECIU) 		

		<p>4. European Universities as a Global Policy Window: Policy Diffusion and University Alliances Beyond Europe Caio Cesar Souza, Senac São Paulo / UFABC - Brazil</p> <p>5. Projects or Projecting: Strategy and organising in European University Alliances Kim Waechtler, University of Oslo (Circle U.)</p> <p>6. 'The waiting field' and ethnographic research on university professionals and European university alliances (EUAs) Maija Hirvonen, Université de Bourgogne Europe</p> <p>7. Beyond Bologna: Do European University Alliances Constitute a New Layer of EU Governance? Tamiris Amangeldi, University of Trento</p> <p>8. Towards a Classification and Evaluation of European University Alliances: Convergences and Divergences in Missions, Visions, and Focus Areas Sri Keerthan Tokala, CHEPS</p>	
15:00 - 15:15	Comfort break		
15:15 - 16:15	<p>Closing Panel Discussion</p> <p>Beyond the event horizon: Future policy & research perspectives</p>	<p>Moderator: Oliver Vettori, Vienna University of Economics and Business</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>-Matej Bilik (OECD), Transnational partnerships in higher education as a global trend</p> <p>-Jo Angouri, University of Warwick (EUTOPIA), Towards an inflection point? The Changing Dynamics of European Universities alliances</p> <p>-Enora Bennetot Pruvot (European University Association), Strategies for the financial sustainability of European Universities alliances</p> <p>-Elmar Pichl (Austrian Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Reserch), The perspective of national authorities on the future of European University Alliances</p> <p>-Romița Iucu, University of Bucharest (CIVIS), Who are "We" as an alliance? European</p>	Auditorium D4

		Universities Alliances as reflexive institutions in the making	
16:15-1 6:30	Closing and Wrap Up	Daniela Craciun , University of Twente (CHEPS), Highlighting avenues for future research	Auditorium D4