

European Universities Initiative: 2nd Research and Practice Symposium 2-3 July 2026, WU Vienna

Thursday, 2 July 2026

8:00 - 9:00 D4 Entrance B	Registration & Welcome Coffee	
9:00 - 9:30 Auditorium D4	Welcome Address Prof. Rupert Sausgruber , Rector (WU Vienna) Oliver Vettori (WU Vienna) Nadia Manzoni (CEU)	
9:30-10:30 Auditorium D4	Keynote speech Manja Klemenčič : Student agency and transformative effects of European Universities alliances on students	
10:30 - 10:45	Comfort break – Move between sessions	
10:45-12:00	Parallel Paper Sessions	
	Parallel Paper Session A (D5.0.002) European education & skills: New initiatives, enduring challenges Chair: Alexandru Carțiș	Parallel Paper Session B (D5.1.001) University alliances as emerging organisational actors Chair: Jo Angouri
	Towards a Typology of Transnational Skills Initiatives: Mapping Governance Logics and Principal Actors → Alina Felder-Stindt (University of Pompeu Fabra)	Developing collective actorhood: Janus-Trimurti paradigm in European University Alliance → Antonin Charret (University of Oxford) & Daniela Craciun (University of Twente, CHEPS)
	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 (SFUVET), Marcelo Marques (University of Luxembourg) & Lukas Graf (SFUVET)	Acting without agency? – Conceptualising university alliances as organisational actors → Oliver Vettori & Johanna Warm (WU Vienna)
	From Alliances to policy platforms: European University Alliances and the Joint European Degree Label as an implementation “stress test” → Fernando Galán (EU-CONEXUS) & Laura Howard (University of Cadiz)	Balancing Institutional Autonomy and Transnational Cooperation: The Challenge of Adopting a Legal Entity for European University Alliances → Hedwig Unger (University of Graz)
	Complement or Complication? Convergences and Divergences between the European Degree Label and the European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes → Aleksandar Šušnjar , (EQAR) & Ana Tomaško Obradović (YUFE)	
12:00 – 13:00 Auditorium D4	Lunch break	

13:00 - 14:30	Parallel Paper Sessions	
	Parallel Paper Session C (D5.0.002) From project management to institutional governance Chair: Dominik Antonowicz	Parallel Paper Session D (D5.1.001) Walking the talk? Promises & Practices Chair: Laura Howard
	From Project Coordination to Institutional Integration? Governance Logics within European Universities Initiative Alliances → Magdalena Sikorska (Poznan University of Technology, EUNICE)	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)
	Governing European University Alliances: The Hybridisation of Projects and Permanence → Kim Waechtler (University of Oslo, Circle U.)	The talk-action inconsistency of European University Alliances: The Case of Public Portuguese Universities → Estela Cunha , P. Pereira & Teresa Carvalho (University of Aveiro, CIPES)
	From Platform to Incubator? The Governance of Engagement in (European) University Alliances → David Joshua Schröder (Humboldt University of Berlin)	European University Alliances as Drivers of Organisational Change: Structures and Professional Reconfigurations in Italy Agata Mannino (Chemnitz University of Technology, ACROSS), Alberto Forte (University of Pavia, EC2U), Francesco Girotti (University of Bologna, UNA EUROPA) & Francesca Valente (University of Florence, EUniWell)
	A view from the outside: What eight years of supporting European University Alliances reveals → Eloi Bigas & Adriana Oliveres (SIRIS Academic)	The Role of University Alliances in Transforming Universities in the Western Balkans → Viktoria Menczel (University of Vienna) & Nikola Savic (University of Belgrade, Circle U.)
14:30- 14:45	Comfort break – Move between sessions	
14:45 - 15:45 Auditorium D4	Plenary Panel: Defining and assessing the impact of European University Alliances - different perspectives → Moderator: Andra Mirona Stan-Dragotesc <u>Panelists:</u> Audrey Sullivan-Reilly (Circle U.) → Exploring multi-level institutional barriers to monitoring and evaluating the impact of European University Alliances Alexander Frame (Université Bourgogne Europe, FORTHEM) & Caroline Censier-Calmus (French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space)→ Making transformation visible: Contribution analysis as a qualitative evaluation framework for the EUI Peter van der Hijden (independent higher education strategy advisor), Robert Wagenaar (University of Groningen, Member Board of Directors of ENLIGHT) → Measuring the Metaphor - European Universities Unraveled Flavia Colus (PPMI) & Benedetto Lepori (Austrian Institute of Technology)→The contribution of the European Higher Education Sector Observatory (EHESO) to monitoring the European University Initiative	

15:45 - 16:15 Auditorium D4	Coffee break
16:15 - 17:30	Parallel interactive workshops and campfire session
	<u>Parallel interactive workshop A</u> (AD Meeting Room 1) Democratic innovations in the EUAs. How to foster citizenship in diverse settings: co-creation, representation, education. Convenors: Timothy James Marshall (University of Stavanger, ECIU University) Karol Leja (Tampere University, ECIU University) Ryan Wakamiya (University of Twente, ECIU University) Michel Varelija (EURECA-PRO) Tamar Chkhartishvil (EUt+) <u>Parallel interactive workshop B</u> (Seminar Room D4.0.022) Measuring What Matters? Co-designing a Framework for the Social Impact of European University Alliances in Non-EU Contexts Convenors: Adina Fodor (Babeş-Bolyai University) Can Yücesoy (Boğaziçi University, NeurotechEU) Zuhal Okan (Çukurova University, EUPeace) Hale İlkçakın (Istanbul Technical University, EELISA)
	<u>Parallel campfire session</u> (Analog room D4.1.200) Facilitators: Francesco Girotti and Agata Mannino - Empowering Professional Staff for Alliance Transformation: The Strategic Contribution of HR Leadership Juliana Velasquez Ochoa (University of Bologna, UNA EUROPA) - New Roles and Interactions in the Ecosystem of Teaching in Transnational Higher Education: CHARM Alliance Perspective Nataliia Lazebna (University of Würzburg, CHARM-EU) - CIVICA Service to Society: Impacts and Challenges of a European University Alliance Dunja Milenković (Central European University, CIVICA) - From Consultation to Co-Creation: Lessons from Living Labs for Meaningful Community Engagement in European University Alliances Birgit Strotmann (Comillas Pontifical University, EUPeace) - From Experimentation to Consolidation: Evaluating Blended Intensive Programmes in the CIVIS Alliance Alexandru Cartiş (University of Bucharest, CIVIS)
18:00 Auditorium D4	Dinner
19:30	<u>Social event</u> Pub quiz with quizmaster Antonin Charret Das Campus Restaurant&Bar, Welthandelsplatz 1, Vienna

Friday, 3 July 2026

8:30 - 9:00
Auditorium D4

Welcome Coffee

09:00 – 10:00
Auditorium D4

Keynote Speech
Jelena Branković: Alliances and the Metrics Trap

10:00 - 11:00

Poster session OR Future Learning Experience Lab Tours

Poster session (Auditorium D4)

1. European Universities Alliances as Platforms for Research Collaboration
Anna Stina Sinisalo (University of Helsinki, UNA EUROPA)

2. Data collection requires institutional transformation
Christine Marburger (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Unite!)

3. Designing A Multidimensional Impact Assessment Framework For Mission-Driven Research Clusters Within Higher Education Context: An Impact Analysis Of EELISA Communities
Hale İlçakın (Istanbul Technical University, EELISA), Teresa Sánchez-Chaparro (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) & Börte Köse Mutlu (Istanbul Technical University)

4. Expand university cooperation and its impact on stakeholders (and strengthen funding options)
Francisco Mendes-Palma & Joao Cortez (Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Transform4Europe);

5. Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in European Universities Alliances: An Exploratory Analysis
Estela Cunha, Nathan Carvalho & Maria J. Rosa (CIPES, University of Aveiro)

6. Entrepreneurship and Innovation in European Universities Alliances: Added Value and Challenges of Transnational Collaboration
Flavia Colus & Ieva Grumbinaite (PPMI)

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)

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)

9. Grassroots initiatives within a formal European University alliance: A case study of BioYUFE
Nicholas J. Bradshaw (University of Rijeka, YUFE)

Future Learning Experience Lab Tours (D4 Entrance B)

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](https://engage.eu)) → **Andrea Ghoneim & Corinna Stiefelbauer** (WU Vienna)

11:00 – 11:15

Comfort break – Move between sessions

11:15 - 12:30	Parallel Paper Sessions	
	Parallel Paper Session E (D5.0.002) What space(s) for research and innovation? Chair: Daniel Izsak	Parallel Paper Session F (D5.1.001) Triggering national reforms and legal changes Chair Aleksandar Šušnjar
	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)	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)
	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+)	European Universities as emerging legal actors: multi-level legal innovation in transnational higher education governance → Juan Ramon Real (University of Huelva, PIONEER)
	Transnational Doctoral Ecologies: Socialisation and Learning in European University Alliances → Que Anh Dang (Coventry University) & Giovanna Del Gobbo (Florence University)	European University Alliances as political actors in the 3rd wave of Europeanisation → Nadia Manzoni (Central European University)
	A Conceptual Framework for Re-thinking Doctoral Learning in European Universities → Margaux Kersschot (University of Antwerp)	An evidence-based analysis of the impact of European Universities Alliances in Romania → Andra Mirona Stan-Dragotesc (West University of Timisoara, UNITA)
12:30 - 13:30 Auditorium D4	Lunch	
13:30 - 15:00	Parallel Paper Sessions	
	Parallel Paper Session G (D5.0.002) From participation to leadership: what role(s) for students? Chair: Manja Klemenčič	Parallel Paper Session H (D5.1.001) Avant-garde research trends and emerging research topics Chair & discussant: Alina Felder-Stindt
	Student Participation in European University Alliances: a realistic diagnosis → Giulia Rebecca Conte (Central European University/ Sciences Po, CIVICA)	1. Beyond Bologna: Do European University Alliances Constitute a New Layer of EU Governance? → Tamiris Amangeldi (University of Trento)
	Where are the students in “student-centred” alliances? Governance design and the structural limits of institutional anchoring in the European Universities Initiative → Tea Toth & Jo Angouri (University of Warwick, EUTOPIA)	2. Classifying European University Alliances using Missions, Visions and Focus Areas → Sri Keerthan Tokala (University of Twente, CHEPS) 3. 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)

	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) From Performance to Practice: Democracy is not a Learning Outcome → Niki Kasis (European University Viadrina, ERUA) & Julia Carvalho Bandeira (Université Paris 8, ERUA)	University of Applied Sciences, HEROES) 4. Institutional Habitus and Sensemaking of Alliance Membership: Perspectives from Different Institutional Contexts in Türkiye → Pelin Yuce (Middle East Technical University) 5. Student Participation in European University Alliance's Governance → Jorge A. Ribeiro-Pereira (University of Aveiro, ECIU) 6. 'The waiting field' and ethnographic research on university professionals and European university alliances (EUAs) → Maija Hirvonen, (Université de Bourgogne Europe)
15:00 - 15:15	Comfort break – Move between sessions	
15:15 - 16:15 Auditorium D4	Plenary Panel: Beyond the event horizon: Future policy & research perspectives → Moderator: Oliver Vettori (WU Vienna) <u>Panelists:</u> Matej Bilik (OECD)→Transnational partnerships in higher education as a global trend Jo Angouri (University of Warwick, EUTOPIA)→Towards an inflection point? The Changing Dynamics of European Universities alliances Romîță Iucu (University of Bucharest, CIVIS)→Who are “We” as an alliance? European Universities Alliances as reflexive institutions in the making Enora Bennetot Pruvot (European University Association)→Strategies for the financial sustainability of European Universities alliances Elmar Pichl (Austrian Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research)→The perspective of national authorities on the future of European University Alliances	
16:15-16:30 Auditorium D4	Wrap Up & Goodbye Daniela Craciun (University of Twente, CHEPS) → The Knowns and Unknowns of the European Universities Initiative: Highlighting avenues for future research	