



EUCEET Association

NEWSLETTER 2/2023

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FROM THE EUCEET ASSOCIATION

2nd Joint conference EUCEET Association and AECEF

About the Conference

The International Conference on “*The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education*” is organized under the joint auspices of the European Civil Engineering Education and Training Association (EUCEET) and the Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties (AECEF).

The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education

<https://euceetaecef2023.unipi.it>

2nd joint International Conference of EUCEET & AECEF

19-20 October 2023
Pisa- Le Benedettine
University of Pisa Congress Centre

Conference Topics

- Future-oriented educational concepts in engineering
- Non-traditional laboratories for engineering education
- Impact of climate change in engineering education
- Student-centred learning environments
- The role of education for woman leadership in engineering
- Diversity and inclusion in engineering education

About the Conference

The Conference would offer a scientific base for discussing and comparing traditional and innovative Teaching/Learning approaches with special concern on soft skill development in the field of Civil Engineering.

Fees

	-Early-	-Late-
EUCEET and AECEF members	230 €	280 €
Other participants	280 €	330 €
Students, auditors, accompanying person	80 €	80 €
Virtual participants	50 €	50 €
Gala dinner (optional)		70 €

Important Dates

abstract submission	abstract acceptance	full paper submission	full paper review	final submission
30 Jun	10 Jul	10 Sept	20 Sept	4 Oct

Since the Bologna Declaration the Student-Centred Approach has involved the development of Interactive Teaching/Learning methodologies. Actually, the need for a Green and Digital transition during COVID-years requires the development of appropriate soft skills and sensibility of future Civil Engineers with respect to so-called SDGs such as: Clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, Industry, Innovation, and infrastructures, Sustainable cities and communities, Climate change.

The Conference would offer a scientific base for discussing and comparing traditional and innovative Teaching/Learning approaches with special concern on soft skill development in the field of Civil Engineering.

Conference topics

The following list of topics is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to indicate topics that fall within the aim of the Conference:

Topic 1- Future-oriented educational concepts in engineering

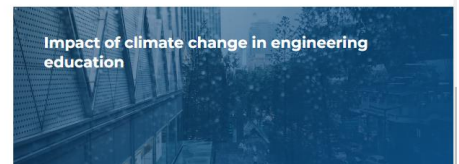
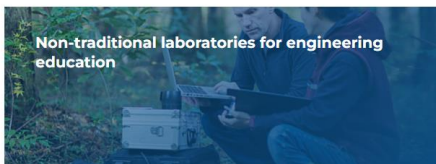
Topic 2- Non-traditional laboratories for engineering education

Topic 3- Impact of climate change in engineering education

Topic 4- Student-centred learning environments

Topic 5- The role of education for woman leadership in engineering

Topic 6- Diversity and inclusion in engineering education



Conference details

The Conference will take place in Pisa (Italy) at “**Le Benedettine**”- **University of Pisa Congress Centre** (near historical centre of Pisa, Arno riverside, ten minutes’ walk far from Leaning Tower), from Thursday 19 to Friday 20, October 2023.

The Conference Proceedings will be published in electronic format, provided with ISBN, and indexed in leading databases.

Official language: English



Invited speakers

- AECEF proposal: DIRK BOCHAR (Secretary General Engineers Europe)
- AECEF proposal: ROODE LIIAS (Building Lifecycle Research Group - Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia)
- AECEF proposal: ALFREDO SOEIRO (AECEF General Secretary - University of Porto, Portugal)
- EUCEET proposal: THIOMAS RYBERG (Institute for Advanced Study in PBL - Aalborg University, Denmark)
- EUCEET proposal: EUAN LINDSAY (Institute for Advanced Study in PBL - Aalborg University, Denmark)
- EUCEET proposal: Juan José JORQUERA-LUCERGA (Polytechnic University of Cartagena - UPCT, Spain)
- UNIPI proposal: NIKO GENTILE (Energy and Building Design Division - Lund University, Sweden)
- UNIPI proposal: FILIPPO CHIARELLO (Teaching Learning Center - University of Pisa, Italy)
- UNIPI proposal: ANTONELLA MARTINI (President of Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence - University of Pisa, Italy)

Conference Program

(Italian time/Pisa)

Thursday 19 October 2023 (morning)

8.30-9.00	Participants Registration
9.00-9.30	Opening and welcome notes
9.30-10.15	Keynote lecture
10.15-10.30	Q/A
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-11.45	Keynote lecture
11.45-12.00	Q/A
12.00-13.30	Paper presentations (oral) Poster presentations (parallel sessions)
13.30-14.30	Lunch

Thursday 19 October 2023 (afternoon)

14.30-15.15	Keynote lecture
15.15-15.30	Q/A
15.30-16.15	Keynote lecture
16.15-16.30	Q/A
16.30-17.00	Tea break
17.00-18.30	Paper presentations (oral) Poster presentations (parallel sessions)
20.00	Conference Gala Dinner

Friday 20 October 2023 (morning)

8.30-9.00	Participants Registration
9.00-9.45	Keynote lecture
9.45-10.00	Q/A
10.00-10.30	Coffee break
10.30-11.15	Keynote lecture
11.15-11.30	Q/A
11.30-13.00	Paper presentations (oral)
	Poster presentations (parallel sessions) 13.00-13.30
	Closing and conclusion notes
13.30-14.30	Lunch

Friday 20 October 2023 (afternoon)

14.30-15.00	EUCEET Educational Award 2023
15.30-17.00	EUCEET General Assembly
15:30-17:30	AECEF General Assembly

Organizing Committee

Francesco Leccese - Conference Chair
School of Engineering, University of Pisa, Italy

Jose Turmo - EUCEET Association President
UPC Barcelona Tech, Barcelona, Spain

Nicolaos Theodossiou - AECEF President
Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

Diego Carlo Lo Presti - EUCEET Association Secretary-General
University of Pisa, Italy

Alfredo Soeiro - AECEF Secretary-General
University of Porto, Portugal

Key dates

Call for abstract:	11 December 2022
Deadline abstract submission:	30 June 2023
Deadline abstract acceptance :	10 July 2023
Full paper submission:	10 September 2023
Full paper review:	20 September 2023
Final submission:	4 October 2023
Deadline for early registration:	12 July 2023
Final date for payment (late registration):	4 October 2023

Conference registration fees

	Early	Late
EUCEET and AECEF members*	230 €	280 €
Other participants	280 €	330 €
Students, auditors, accompanying person	80 €	80 €
Virtual participants	50 €	50 €
Gala dinner (optional)	70 €	

Students, auditors, accompanying person, who intend to attend the Conference without submitting any paper.

At least one of the authors needs to be registered for the conference in order to their paper to be included in the proceedings. The payment of one registration fee is required for each accepted paper.

Conference fees includes

- Attendance to Conference sessions (keynotes, paper presentations, poster sessions).
- Official certificate of Conference attendance/presentation.
- Conference Welcome Pack (bag, conference badge, electronic book of abstracts, etc.).
- Coffee breaks and lunches.

*The Gala dinner is included for EUCEET and for AECEF members.



CONFERENCE WEBSITE

<https://euceetaecef2023.unipi.it/>

2ND JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EUCEET AND AECEF

The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education

Pisa, 19-20 October 2023
University of Pisa Congress Centre "Le Benedettine"

2023 EUCEET Association call for international research and educational projects funds**EUCEET ASSOCIATION AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING CIVIL ENGINEERING**

For the 2nd EUCEET Educational award for research/educational projects 2023 was received the application from **Assoc. Prof. Gediminas BLAŽEVIČIUS** (Faculty of Civil Engineering, Department of Applied Mechanics, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania) with the title *“Encouraging student creativity in structural dynamics course”*.

**EUCEET Association on LinkedIn**

Starting with December 2022 EUCEET Association has the LinkedIn page where are posted useful information about association and partners:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-civil-engineering-education-and-training/>

If any member of the EUCEET Association wants to post any kind of advertisement, an e-mail can be sent in this regard to the secretary of the association.





1st Conference
24-25 November 2011 in Patras

"New Trends and Challenges in Civil Engineering Education"



2nd Conference
14-15 October 2013 in Moscow

"Civil engineering education: are we meeting the needs of the industry and society?"



3rd Conference
22-23 September 2015 in Florence

"Resilience by design of civil engineering works"



4th Conference
5-8 September 2018 in Barcelona

"Challenges for the third millennium"



1st Joint Conference
12 November 2021 in Thessaloniki, Greece

"The role of education for Civil Engineers in the implementation of the SDGs"



2st Joint Conference
will take place 19-20 October 2023 in Pisa, Italy

"The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education"

#interactivelearning #civilengineering #softskills #education #sdgs #conference #event #euceet #aecef



EVENT

EUCEET



2ND JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EUCEET AND AECEF

"The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education"

European Civil Engineering Education and Training 
Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties 

 University of Pisa Congress Centre "Le Benedettine" Pisa, Italy

 20-19 October 2023

More information:
www.euceetaecef2023.unipi.it

JOIN US NOW

FROM MEMBERS

École des Ponts ParisTech, France

Professor Thibaut Skrzypek, member of Administrative Council of EUCEET Association sent the following news of interest for members of EUCEET Association:



THNS FORUM: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The [THNS Forum - International Symposium on the Sustainable Development of Urban Transport Systems](#), is an international conference organized by École des Ponts ParisTech and Tongji University. In particular, it promotes the exchange of advances in knowledge: research results, innovative technologies, implementation reports, and so on. It brings together academics, political decision-makers and corporate representatives (operators, manufacturers, consultants).

CALL FOR PAPERS

THNS Forum International Symposium on the Sustainable Development of Urban Transport Systems

Deadline: July 31, 2023



The THNS Forum was created in 2008 on the initiative of the Ecole des Ponts, Tongji University and the Ministry of the Environment. Since 2020, three editions have been held, bringing together more than 600 participants from 20 countries. 2023 will see the adoption of a dual mode: online presentations via videoconferencing as well as face-to-face presentations, on the one hand at Tongji and on the other at Ecole des Ponts - Champs sur Marne (in English).

CALL FOR PAPERS

The following topics are recommended.:

- Integration of Urban Planning and Transport
- 15-minute Neighbourhood
- Walking and Cycling Transport
- Telework, Transport and Household Relocation
- Transport for Inclusive Society
- Autonomous Driving and Future City
- Urban Logistic and Future City
- Resilient Transport for City in Hazards
- Transport Adaption for Special Events
- Transport Security, Safety and Public Health
- Gender Perspectives in Mobility and Transport
- Green Transport and Logistics

SCHEDULE

- Call for papers: 01/06 to 31/07
- Notification of acceptance: 09/15
- Closing date for registration: 05/11

[>More info](#)

GENDER, FEMINISMS AND MOBILITY

October 06, 2023 09:00 - 09:00

This year, the [Laboratoire Ville Mobilité Transport](#) is celebrating its anniversary with five scientific days, organized throughout the year on the theme: 20 years of multidisciplinary research on cities, mobility and transport. This series of scientific events will focus on sustainable cities and territories, analyzed through the prism of transport issues (players, infrastructures, services, etc.) and mobility (practices, socio-spatial and gender inequalities, etc.).

To mark this anniversary, a new study day is being organized on the theme of "Gender, feminism and mobility": Friday October 6 (from 9 am) in Champs-sur-Marne (Cité Descartes)/France

> [Info & contact](#)

**CONFERENCE - EUROPEAN PROJECT HERCULES 2023**

From July 17, 2023 09:00 to July 18, 2023 18:00

[Laboratoire Navier](#) will host the conference on the European HERCULES project (Towards geoHazards rEEsiliEnt InFRastruCtUre under Changing cLimatES) at the École, on July 17 and 18.

HERCULES aims to create a multi-disciplinary team to improve the understanding and monitoring capabilities of geohazards, while developing revolutionary new methods to enhance the resilience of existing infrastructures in the face of climate change. A [consortium](#) has thus been created, including 16 academic and industrial partners.

The HERCULES2023 conference aims to disseminate the main results of fundamental research into geohazard risk assessment and prediction.

► [Information and registration](#) (before July 17, 2023)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstract submission for presentations is open until July 10, 2023. Abstracts will be reviewed by the organizers. Notification of acceptance will be made by July 13, 2023. The author who will be in charge of the presentation must register for the conference.

► [Read more](#)

**University College Dublin,
College of Engineering and
Architecture, Ireland**



UCD College of Engineering & Architecture
Coláiste na hInnealtóireachta agus na hAiltireachta UCD

Engineers Ireland Accreditation 2023

Thursday, 1st June, 2023



The Director General of Engineers Ireland, Damien Owens, presented the programme directors of the UCD Engineering degrees with their certificates of accreditation on May 31st 2023.

Information from:

<https://www.ucd.ie/eacollege/newsandevents/engineersirelandaccreditationmay31st2023/>



Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania

Assoc. Prof. Dr Šarūnas Skuodis, Vice-dean of Faculty of Civil Engineering at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, member of Administrative Council of EUCEET Association sent the following news of interest for members of EUCEET Association about the Conference which will take place in Lithuania at VILNIUS TECH university on 13-17 May, 2024.:

Call for Papers

for the

Fifth European and Mediterranean Structural Engineering and Construction Conference (EURO-MED-SEC-5)

Vilnius, Lithuania, May 13-17, 2024

CONFERENCE THEME: Developing Materials and Structures for Sustainable Engineering

HOST: Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH)

ORGANIZED BY: International Structural Engineering and Construction Society (ISEC Society)

PUBLISHER: ISEC Press

All ISEC Press manuscripts are peer-reviewed, are registered with Crossref, and indexed in Scopus. All articles are archived in perpetuity with ClockSS.

TOPICS: (in alphabetical-order): All branches of structural and construction engineering, such as Architecture and Architectural Engineering, Construction and Engineering Management, Construction Safety, Construction Process Simulation, Construction Safety, Cost and Project Management, Disaster Management, Education and Professional Ethics, Energy, Facilities and Asset Management, Hydraulics and Hydrology, Geotechnical and Foundation Engineering, Housing, Infrastructure, Law and Dispute Resolution, Materials, Oil and Gas, Pipelines, Policies for Technology and National Development, Ports and Harbors, Procurement, Quality, Risk Analysis, Structures, Sustainability, Water and Air, and more.

See https://www.isec-society.org/EURO_MED_SEC_05/topics.php for the 24 tracks and associated sub-tracks.

EURO-MED-SEC-5 WEBSITE: https://www.isec-society.org/EURO_MED_SEC_05/

Gintaris Kaklauskas and Valentin Antonovic
Conference Chairs

More details about the conference:

https://www.isec-society.org/EURO_MED_SEC_05/

Ural Federal University (UrFU), Russia



Professor Vladimir Alekhin (Head of Department of UrFU Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture (ICEA) and former member of the Administrative Council of the EUCET Association) sent the following news of interest for members of EUCET Association:

VIII International Conference “Safety Problems of Civil Engineering Critical Infrastructures” SAFETY 2023 (SPCECI 2023) and XIX School of Young Scientists “Safety of Critical Infrastructures and Territories”

The Conference and School were held on 25-27, May 2023 in Ekaterinburg at the Ural Federal University in collaboration with Science and Engineering Centre “Reliability and Safety of Large Systems and Machines (Ural Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences), Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences, South Ural State University, Ural State University of Architecture and Art and European Civil Engineering Education and Training Association (EUCET). The representatives of science and business from Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, China, Syria and Yemen took part in the Conference (mostly online).

The main conference purpose is integration and coordination of efforts of scientists, experts and specialists in the field of integrated risk analysis related to building interdependent critical infrastructures throughout their life cycle at the international level. Design, fracture mechanics problems, diagnostics, monitoring, maintenance, survivability and optimal management of infrastructure systems issues is considered in the context of the creation and operation of safe, smart and durable infrastructure systems. Question of the creation of real conditions and a practical mechanism for an innovative scientific, educational and organizational breakthrough is one of the most important problems of the twenty-first century – safety and sustainable development of cities, regions and worldwide taking into account the human factor.

The objectives of SAFETY 2023 are to collect and disseminate state-of-the-art research and technology for design, fracture mechanics problems, diagnostics, monitoring, maintenance, survivability and optimal management of infrastructure systems issues is considered in the context of the creation and operation of safe, smart and durable infrastructure systems.

The conference participants discussed the problems of safety technologies for building critical infrastructure and territories; modeling of loads and impacts on buildings and structures; steel and concrete structures; soil mechanics and foundations problems of viable and smart cities and sustainable development of territories; energy efficiency and resource saving in civil engineering; building information technology (BIM); building technologies and materials of innovative type; education in architecture and civil engineering; expertise and management in construction; building engineering systems and others.

Heads of Department of UrFU Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture (ICEA) Professor Vladimir Alekhin (former member of the EUCET Administrative Council) and Professor Lilya Pastukhova and

Deputy Director for Science and Innovations of the ICEA Professor Zoya Belyaeva served as moderators of the Conference.

The keynote lectures were given by Professor Sviatoslav Timashev (Russian Academy of Sciences, Ural Federal University). Conference Proceedings will be indexed in Scopus.



Photos taken at the **SPCECI 2023**



City University of London, UK

High-profile delegation from India’s Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) visits City

New agreement will see VIT students studying on City’s undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Engineering and Computer Science.

By [City Press Office\(City Press Office\)](#), Published Wednesday, 10th May 2023



A high-profile delegation from the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) comprising VIT Chancellor Dr G. Viswanathan and the Deputy Director of VIT’s International Office, Dr R Seenivasan, visited City, University of London on the 5th May 2023.

The purpose of the visit was the signing of an amendment to the existing Memorandum of Agreement between VIT and City. The amendment opens up all of City’s undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Engineering and Computer Science to VIT students using the 2+2 model for undergraduate programmes and the 1+1 model for postgraduate programmes.



The partnership also includes student/staff mobility and research collaboration including the co-supervision of PhD students. The extension to the agreement was signed by City’s Deputy President, Professor Elisabeth Hill, and for VIT, by its Chancellor, Dr Viswanathan.

The VIT delegation was welcomed by Professor Hill, School of Science and Technology (SST) Executive Dean, Professor Rajkumar Roy, Mr Mark Hertlein, Head of the Office for Global Engagement, Mr Richard Appleby, City Deputy Registrar, members of the SST Deanery, Heads of Department and Dr Dirk Nitzsche, Associate Dean (International) of Bayes Business School.

The visitors were also led on a tour of some of the Engineering Labs (Optical Sensors and Biomedical Engineering Research) and were briefed on the ongoing research in the respective research teams by Professor Ken Grattan and Dr Meha Qassem.



VIT is one of India’s leading private universities, and was founded in 1984. It currently offers undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD degree across four campuses - Vellore, Chennai, Bhopal and Andhra Pradesh.

On 2nd May 2023 another VIT delegation visited City’s Department of Computer Science (CS).

The meeting was hosted by the Head of CS, Dr Ilir Gashi, and attended by six visitors from the Vellore Campus School of Information Technology, and SST Associate Dean (International) Dr Peter Popov.



Dr Gashi briefed the visitors on teaching and research in CS and offered them a short tour around the Interaction Lab. Head of the Interaction Lab, Stuart Scott, informed the visitors about the Lab’s consultancy work and its support for teaching.

The visitors expressed interest in partnering with the Interaction Lab and hope to build similar facilities at VIT.

Information from: <https://www.city.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/05/high-profile-delegation-from-indias-vellore-institute-of-technology-vit-visits-city>

FROM PARTNERS

European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)



76th ECCE General Meeting

24 - 27 May, 2023

Nicosia, Cyprus

The 76th General Meeting of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) convened in Nicosia in Cyprus from 24th to 27th May 2023 hosted by the Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers (CYACE). The event brought together representatives from professional organizations of civil engineers across numerous European countries and the international community. Dignitaries such as the Presidents of the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE) and the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC), as well as the Secretary General of the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) also attended the assembly.



76th ECCE General Meeting group photo

The Minister of Transport, Communications, and Works, Mr. Alexis Vafeadis, emphasized the importance of ensuring safety, health, and sustainability in construction projects in his opening speech. The President of the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK), Mr. Constantinos Constanti, and the Secretary-

General of CYACE, Mr. Kyriakos Tsioupanis, also delivered welcome messages. Ms. Evangelitsa Tsoulofta, the President of CYACE, presented the organization's work and showcased its activities through a commemorative video on its 30th anniversary.

Key highlights of the General Assembly included the presentation of ECCE's Strategic Plan for 2023-2030, outlining the organization's goals and vision for the future. Notably, "Engineers Ireland's Civil Engineering Department" officially joined ECCE as a member, and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ECCE and the International Safety and Health Coordinators in Construction (ISHCCO), emphasizing their commitment to promoting a culture of prevention for professional safety and health in Europe and globally.

The General Assembly also announced the updated joint declaration (Manifesto) titled "3S Approach - Safe - Sound - Sustainable: The Need for Integrating Structural/Seismic Upgrade of Existing Buildings, together with Energy Efficiency Improvements" by ECCE and WCCE. This initiative, which originated in Europe in 2020, now represents the shared vision of civil engineers worldwide, aiming to promote holistic upgrade approaches that align with global policies and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a safe and sustainable world. Mr. Platonas Stylianou, the Vice-President/President-Elect of ECCE and coordinator of the collaborative working group between ECCE and WCCE, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the progress achieved thus far, outlining the future objectives and vision of this joint endeavor. Additionally, Mr. Platonas Stylianou presented the progress on ECCE's upcoming book on the "Civil Engineering Profession in Europe" and the developments related to the 3S Approach initiative.

The General Assembly featured presentations on recent earthquakes in Turkey and research findings by ECCE members concerning building inspections, disaster resilience, and professional safety and health.

Through discussions, exchange of opinions, and practical solutions, the General Assembly strengthened the bonds between ECCE members and CYACE, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The ECCE General Assembly concluded with the 8th International Construction Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) Conference, titled "Respect Human Rights - Everyone Has a Role to Play," with the motto "Focus on People - Join Vision Zero" (www.cosh.cy). The conference, held on May 26th and 27th, 2023, at the Hilton Nicosia Hotel, attracted over 250 delegates and featured 17 distinguished speakers from seven European countries.

Information from: http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2023/76_ecce_meeting.php

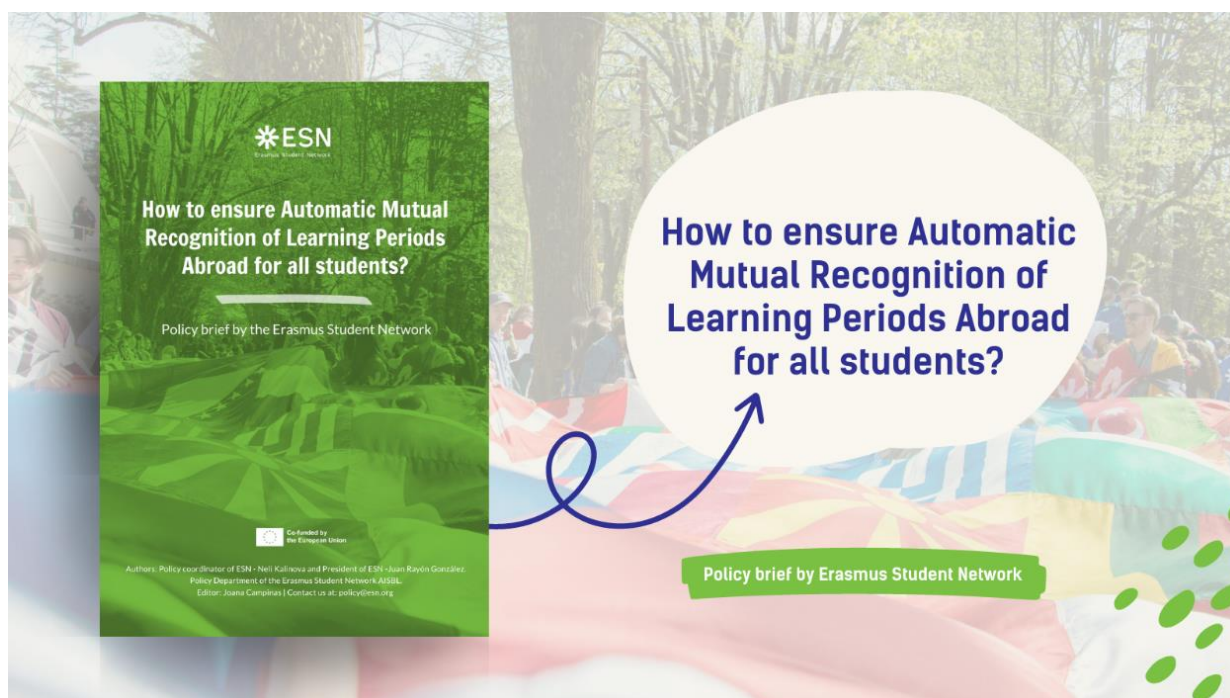
Erasmus Student Network (ESN)



How to ensure Automatic Mutual Recognition of Learning Periods Abroad for all students?

Tuesday, 13 June, 2023

Automatic recognition of learning outcomes from a period of study abroad is one of the core elements that will encompass the achievement of the [European Education Area](#) by 2025. Moreover, automatic mutual recognition is a key flagship of the [European Strategy for Universities](#), and it is one of the major requirements in the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) that higher education institutions (HEIs) commit to. A number of steps have been taken to put this into practice ever since the [Council Recommendation on automatic recognition of learning periods abroad from 2018](#) has been adopted, but there are still significant national differences that hinder seamless learning mobility and make the 2025 goal seem harder to achieve.



This short piece condenses ESN's perspective on the recognition of learning periods abroad, reflecting on data from the [SIEM research report \(2021\)](#) and the [ESNsurvey - XIV edition \(2022\)](#), as well as preliminary data from the [ESNsurvey XV](#), which at the time of writing already had more than 5000 answers from students. The policy proposals in this piece are based on some of ESN's last publications.

In order to get the latest data from the students, ESN is currently conducting the [XV edition of the ESNsurvey](#), which is open for responses by mobile and non-mobile students until the 1st of August 2023.

Please help us to disseminate the survey among students!

[You can access all the information here.](#)

The ESNsurvey XV is gathering both quantitative and qualitative data on the recognition of learning outcomes of a study period abroad, which will help ESN to monitor the implementation of the recognition commitment halfway through the Erasmus+programme period. The survey analyses Credit recognition from different perspectives, both in terms of the results obtained by exchange students and the perceptions of mobile and non-mobile students. Some preliminary considerations are included in this piece.

More information: <https://www.esn.org/news/how-ensure-automatic-mutual-recognition-learning-periods-abroad-all-students>

European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI)



SEFI Annual Conference - *Engineering Education for Sustainability*: Reflecting on the role of engineering and technology education for a sustainable world.

11-14 September, 2023

Dublin, IRELAND



The SEFI Annual Conference is a scientific conference focused on Engineering Education and the biggest event of this type in Europe. The topics of the conferences reflect the objectives of the society and the priorities identified by its members. The theme for the conference will be Engineering Education for Sustainability

Conference Tracks

1. Addressing the challenges of Climate Change and Sustainability
2. Embedding Sustainability and Ethics in the Curriculum
3. Engineering Skills and Competences, Lifelong Learning for a more sustainable world
4. Equality Diversity and Inclusion in Engineering Education
5. Education about and education with Artificial Intelligence
6. Engagement with Society and Local Communities
7. Engagement with Industry and Innovation
8. Mentoring and Tutoring
9. Fostering Engineering Education Research
10. Virtual and Remote education in a post Covid world
11. Innovative Teaching and Learning Methods

12. Fundamentals of Engineering: Mathematics and the Sciences
13. Built Environment and Architecture Education
14. Recruitment and Retention of Engineering Students
15. Curriculum Development

Contributions on other topics in Engineering Education are also welcome.

DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION 2023

The **7th Doctoral Symposium in Engineering Education Research** offers an opportunity for PhD candidates to explore and develop research interests in an interdisciplinary workshop, under the guidance of a number of well-known senior scholars within the Engineering Education Research (EER) field. During the Doctoral Symposium, the participants will share their current dissertation work with others and exchange feedback.

To this event, we now invite doctoral students in Engineering Education Research. Ideally, the participants have an active PhD research plan, so they can benefit from participating in the workshop.

The aim is to provide an opportunity for doctoral students to:

- meet other students and supervisors to extend their network and view of the EER field,
- present and discuss their own work and the work of others,
- get perspectives from scholars outside their own institution,
- contribute to the conference and the SEFI EER community with other participants, and
- promote collaborative research and elaborate future research directions.

The Doctoral Symposium takes place on **Sunday September 10th**, as a pre-conference event to the SEFI 2023 Annual Conference organized by Technological University Dublin, Dublin Ireland. All participants to the Doctoral Symposium must also be registered to the main conference. For PhD students accepted to the Doctoral Symposium, the SEFI 2023 conference fee is reduced (please, check the **Registration Fees**).

Birds of a (Different) Feather

SEFI 2023 organisers invite all delegates to participate in Birds of a (Different) Feather. This event aims to create a welcoming safe space for SEFI 2023 delegates who may not feel fully comfortable navigating SEFI spaces or participating in the conference due to any aspect of their identity(ies). Delegates will be invited to share past experiences and current expectations of 'fitting in'/'not fitting in' at this important conference. We want to help create a more inclusive and supportive environment, for everyone, at the conference and other SEFI events.

[Event Details Birds of a \(Different\) Feather](#) (Click to download)

For more information: <https://www.sefi2023.eu/>

Academic Cooperation Association



Do you have experience in the design or delivery of blended mobility activities? Participate in the HiBLend survey! Share your experiences before 7 July



Are you a member of administrative staff and/or an academic with experience in the design or delivery of blended mobility activities? If so, we want to hear from you! **We kindly invite you to fill out the HiBLend survey before 7 July and to share it with anyone else who may be interested.**

Fostering high-quality blended student mobility in higher education - **HiBLend** – is a project that aims to build the capacity of higher education institutions to **design and deliver quality blended mobility opportunities** for students through the exchange of good practice and peer learning. The results of this survey will contribute to the development of a comprehensive framework offering guidance on existing and newer models, quality considerations, and main steps in the set-up and delivery of blended mobility programmes.

By giving just 20 minutes of your time now, you will help us be able to develop a comprehensive framework that will ease and facilitate the integration of digitalisation in mobility programmes!

For more information, visit the [HiBLend website](#) and [project page](#).

Information from https://aca-secretariat.be/post/latest_news/participate-in-the-hiblend-survey-share-your-experiences-before-7-july/

FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

News from Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)



We value your opinion: user satisfaction survey for the Erasmus+/Creative Europe/European Solidarity Corps Project Results Platforms

Publication date: 23 May 2023

Author: European Education and Culture Executive Agency

The European Commission – Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture - is conducting a user satisfaction survey in order to gather valuable feedback and insights from users.

The European Commission – Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture - is conducting a user satisfaction survey for the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform, the Creative Europe Project Results Platform and the European Solidarity Corps Projects Platform **EN●●●** in order to gather valuable feedback and insights from users. The evaluation covers information about user profiles, their needs, and satisfaction following the fully revamped version of the platforms.

Please share with us your feedback about the Project Results Platforms. Your answers will allow us to better meet your expectations when looking for EU-funded projects.

Participate in the surveys for Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps.



More information: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/we-value-your-opinion-user-satisfaction-survey-erasmuscreative-europeeuropean-solidarity-corps-2023-05-23_en

Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme: call for proposals open

Publication date: 5 April 2023

Author: [European Education and Culture Executive Agency](#)

You can now submit your project proposal via the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (F&TP).



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The Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme is the EU's programme to encourage international learning mobility across the African continent.

The call for proposals has been launched and is now open for applications on the European Commission's Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (F&TP).

The call is managed by EACEA.

- [Go to the call for proposals here](#)
- [See a press release about the call here](#) EN●●●

More information

- [Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme](#) EN●●●
- [How to get a grant](#) EN●●●

More information: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/intra-africa-academic-mobility-scheme-call-proposals-open-2023-04-05_en

The European Commission has adopted the Digital Europe Programme Work Programme for 2023-2024

€1.3 billion from the Digital Europe Programme for Europe's digital transition and cybersecurity

DIGIBYTE |

Publication date: 24 March 2023



Copyright European Commission

The Commission has adopted two multiannual work programmes for the Digital Europe Programme, outlining the objectives and specific topic areas that will receive a total of €1.284 billion in funding, out of which €553 million is available in 2023. These work programmes include strategic investments that will be instrumental in making this Europe's Digital Decade. The Digital Europe Programme aims to bolster Europe's technological sovereignty and bring digital solutions to market for the benefit of citizens, public administrations, and businesses while contributing to the objectives of the European Green Deal.

More information: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu13-billion-digital-europe-programme-europes-digital-transition-and-cybersecurity>

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION**Erasmus Goes Digital: Lessons learnt 2021-2022**

The first **Erasmus Goes Digital** 2023 event took place on **May 3rd, 2023** in Brussels, at Fondation Universitaire, Rue d'Egmont 11. This conference offered a unique opportunity to share experiences and learn from experts in the ongoing digital transformation of higher education.



ERASMUS GOES DIGITAL

Lessons learnt 2021-2022

May 3rd, 2023

Fondation Universitaire,
Rue d'Egmont 11, Brussels



The event features panel discussions on topics such as challenges and solutions in the digital transformation process and EWP's role in European University Alliances, as well as updates on the EWP dashboard and support for end-users. There were also opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas with colleagues from across Europe.

More info on: <https://uni-foundation.eu/erasmus-digital-lessons/>

Lessons Learned on Digital Transformation in Higher Education

May 15, 2023



A recap of the SUDTE final conference

The Supporting Universities in Digital Transformation in Erasmus+ (SUDTE) consortium partners organised its final conference on May 3rd, 2023 in Brussels. Held under the format of the Erasmus Goes Digital series, the event marked the resumption of face-to-face events on the topic and provided an opportunity to discuss lessons learned from the SUDTE project, with a focus on the digitalisation process at the beginning of the Erasmus+ programme 2021-27.

The conference started with an insightful speech from Merve Nacar from the Turkish National Agency, who shed light on the digital transformation process underway in Türkiye. Notably, the rapid adoption of federated authentication among Turkish universities was highlighted as a high-impact stepping stone, enabling universities to issue the European Student Identifier.

The first panel discussion, moderated by Joachim Wyssling from the EUF, featured representatives from the SUDTE consortium, who presented some of the most critical outcomes of the project. They shared insights on the mapping of digitalisation status in Türkiye, Italy, and Spain and discussed the challenges associated with connecting to Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) from the perspectives of in-house information systems, third-party providers or the EWP Dashboard. The panelists also provided updates on the EWP implementation at their respective institutions, emphasizing the positive impact of digitalization on reducing the environmental footprint of mobility administration, enabling the management of 80% more mobilities with existing resources and staff.

Following this, another panel focused on the role of EWP as a catalyst for the development of European University Alliances. Representatives from various University Alliances, including Athena University Alliance, Aurora Universities, ENLIGHT, CHARM-EU, and the Dutch National Research and Education Network (SURF), participated in the discussion. The panelists agreed that integrating existing solutions such as EWP is crucial for ensuring scalability and sustainability of European university alliances, emphasizing the need to minimize reliance on custom IT solutions.

In addition to the panel discussions, the conference delved into topics such as the digital transformation user's guide, comparative analysis of digital tools functionalities, and the future of digitalisation.

The SUDTE project has provided invaluable insights into the digital transformation process in Europe, and the conference served as a platform to share knowledge and experiences. The attendees engaged in lively conversation, demonstrating a strong interest and motivation to continue working towards a more digitalised future.

Information from <https://uni-foundation.eu/lessons-learned-digital-transformation-higher-education/>

ARTICLES from journals, newspaper, magazines

Erasmus+ should be more inclusive, more green, says review

Author: Nic Mitchell

16 May 2023

Despite the European Union's Erasmus+ 2021-27 programme getting a big cash boost compared with the equivalent programme for the previous seven years, a review into its first year revealed it got off to a shaky start with delays in funding.

The review also said that it can do better to make its programme more inclusive and environmentally sustainable by adapting funding levels to the cost of living in different contexts within countries and by incentivising rail travel over cheap flights.

Delays in approving the whole multiannual financial framework of the European Union constrained the start of the new programme in many countries, causing "an untenable funding situation" for higher education institutions and, ultimately, students, with some universities reporting early cuts of up to 34% year-on-year to pay for their Erasmus+ student and staff mobility activities.

Joachim Wyssling, from the European University Foundation (EUF), which helped to prepare the *Erasmus+ Review 2021-2022* together with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and the European Students' Union (ESU), said some countries reported a 50% cut in available funds, including Ireland, while France said mobility funds were down 34%, but there did not appear to be any change in Belgium.

Wyssling, deputy executive manager of the EUF, highlighted findings from the study co-funded by the European Union during a webcast hosted by the European Association for International Education (EAIE) on Friday 12 May 2023.

'Crisis mode'

Among the report's key recommendations is the need to "better anticipate the start of a new programming period to prevent massive operational issues" and avoid higher education institutions and students having to switch to "crisis mode" by ensuring that "funding levels remain constant when transitioning between multiannual financial framework (MFF) programming periods".

The disruption had a knock-on effect on thousands of institutions and hundreds of thousands of students, said the report, with some universities having to raid funds for other planned activities to keep mobility programmes going and to prevent grants to some students going abroad being delayed, which goes against the ambition to make Erasmus+ more inclusive to less well-off participants.

Increased funding

The new Erasmus+ 2021-27 programme eventually came out of the delayed MFF negotiations between EU member states with a budget for €26.2 billion (US\$28.5 billion), compared with €14.7 billion for 2014-20. This will be complemented by about €2.2 billion from the EU's external instruments.

With increased funding now secured, Wyssling said there is now an opportunity to smooth out how Erasmus+ operates and help to ensure the programme gives more young people from less advantaged backgrounds the chance to participate in study or work placements abroad.

Introducing the webcast on 12 May, Laura Rumbley, associate director for knowledge development and research at the EAIE, said the report was part of a mid-term review, looking at both the start of the current programme and the transition to the next programme beginning in 2028.

The timing of the transition to the Erasmus+ 2021-27 programme probably didn't help, coming as it did in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, but despite the somewhat shaky start and the new programme being designed as "an evolution rather than a revolution", it does include several important changes and novelties, such as a stronger focus on "inclusion, sustainability and digitalisation", according to the review.

The green transition

There is also a greater focus on the green transition, with the new programme including €50 top-up grants to encourage students going abroad to take the bus or train rather than a cheap flight to the study abroad destination.

Wyssling said this should be increased to €250 to enable travel passes, like Interrail, to be purchased "and make green travel the rule rather than the exception in Erasmus+".

"Taking the train often costs much more than just €50 and might include an overnight stay," he said.

"We also need to look at more than just cost and look at the experience of travelling by train or bus when going abroad compared to taking a flight," said Wyssling, who said Erasmus+ was "essentially a journey of discovery" and experiencing different cities and cultures was part of that goal.

Funding as a deterrent

The review said: "The single biggest deterrent to participation in mobility among non-mobile participants is the insufficient level of funding provided," demonstrated by previous reports such as ESU's ***Bologna with Student Eyes***, which reported that only half of students participating in intra-European mobility can cover their expenses with their scholarship.

"We welcome the increased social top-up for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, but such top-up benefits only 10% of the mobile learners," said Wyssling.

The review also recommends that to improve the inclusion dimension of Erasmus+, European scholarship schemes should be established “for students at risk in order to facilitate the support for students fleeing countries where they are exposed to danger”.

It also wants the EU to revise the way grant levels are defined to better fit the needs of the students and the socio-economic realities of their destinations.

Wyssling told the webcast that students going to countries with a higher cost of living were not really getting the full recompense from Erasmus+ at the moment as the system is based on low-cost, middle-cost and high-cost countries, but that ignores the difference in the cost of living in bigger cities compared to smaller towns away from the capital.

“The cost can triple staying in Paris compared to a smaller town, and this isn’t reflected at the moment in the student mobility grants, which just look at low-, middle- and higher-cost countries.

“The scheme needs to give higher education institutions the possibility of adjusting grant levels depending on the destination. It doesn’t seem to have much flexibility at the moment,” said Wyssling.

Timing of grant payments

The timing of the grant payments was another issue that needed resolving in the new programme, according to the review, with more than a quarter of students reporting receiving their grants later than one month after the start of their mobilities.

“Differences between countries of origin are stark: in Spain, more than half report receiving their grant later than one month after the start of mobility, followed by France and Italy [while] in Germany, only 16% of outgoing students report receiving their grants later than one month after the start of their mobility,” said the review.

Other issues mentioned in the review include ongoing problems with recognition for the period spent abroad, which the review says impacts “almost every aspect of the Erasmus experience, affecting both the access, the experience itself and the reintegration process”.

Traineeships

Erasmus+ traineeships are also highlighted in the review as a somewhat overlooked part of the Erasmus+ programme.

Interest is growing from students to gain work experience abroad and the European Commission has included references to Erasmus+ traineeships in the new European Strategy for Universities, including a benchmark of 100,000 traineeships per year.

However, trainees report significantly lower satisfaction with their social life compared to participants in Erasmus+ study mobility.

“Trainees struggle to get access to the same support services as their peers doing study mobilities, such as welcome weeks or buddy systems,” says the review, which recommends a greater focus on involving higher education institutions present in cities where the trainees are going and facilitating access to information provided by local student associations through the ErasmusIntern.org platform and the Erasmus+ App.

Staff mobility also gets a mention in the review, which says: “Participation of faculty and staff in mobility is useful not just in and of itself, in that it plays a vital role in furthering the internationalisation of higher education systems and contributing to their modernisation; it can also be seen as a powerful catalyst for ‘turbocharging’ student participation in mobility, by having actors with first-hand experience in Erasmus+ promoting it to students to an even greater extent than what is possible today.”

Nic Mitchell is a UK-based freelance journalist and PR consultant specialising in European and international higher education. He blogs at www.delacourcommunications.com.

Information from: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20230516091221231>

EU to extend mobility programmes to the rest of the world

Author: Yojana Sharma

26 May 2022

The European Union is expanding its student and academic mobility programmes under its flagship Erasmus+ programme to cover countries worldwide under its new seven-year cycle 2021-27.

Compared with the previous seven-year programme in terms of which mobility programmes with partners in the rest of the world were not possible, the significantly expanded Erasmus budget will, from this year, allow up to a fifth of funding under the scheme to be used for exchanges and mobility beyond the European continent.

“We are expecting quite some boost in international exchanges, starting perhaps with exchanges of staff where the partnerships are new, to test the ground, followed by student exchanges,” said Nadia Manzoni of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture.

This would also include traineeships with industry or companies outside the EU.

“Think of the possibilities of traineeships into the US, Canada and South Africa. This is all possible now,” as part of individual exchanges and mobility, she said during a session on the European Strategy for Universities and its implementation through Erasmus during the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022) in Barcelona, Spain, on 19 May.



World Higher Education Conference 2022.

This conference is convened by UNESCO and *University World News* is the exclusive media partner.



Erasmus+ has an overall budget of €26 billion (US\$28 billion) for the seven years 2021-27 compared with €14.7 billion for 2014-20. Around 70% of the programme is student and staff mobility, but 30% is accounted for by cooperation projects, such as the European University alliances, and much more.

Increased opportunities

Tine Delva, also from the European Commission's Education Directorate-General, said: "From third [non-EU] countries for mobilities into Europe, a higher budget will be available than in the past programming period, so there will be increased opportunities for both universities and students."

"There are no geographical limitations apart from geographical diversity as a principle that should be applied," said Manzoni. This is to ensure that a European university has partnerships in several other countries in the world. "But that is the sole criterion, as well as this 20% ceiling of the budget."

New European universities, under the EU's European Universities Initiative which sets up cross-border alliances of universities that jointly deliver programmes, have been able to use some of the EU's international credit mobility programmes for exchanges and **mobility with African countries**.

"It is already happening on the grounds that cooperation is ongoing. Also, for example, with African partners, there is already a lot of cooperation."

However, Manzoni noted that universities had to compete for a common pool of funding to fund mobility programmes with Africa and other regions. "We saw in the past programming period that the demand by European universities [to extend beyond Europe] far outstripped the supply of funding," Manzoni said, noting that competition for such funding has been fierce.

Responding to the Ukraine crisis

Thanks to the much-expanded Erasmus+ budget, Manzoni said the EU was able to act quickly after the Russian aggression against Ukraine to use Erasmus+ beyond the EU to facilitate Ukrainian student and academic mobility within the EU.

"There was quite swift action in the Erasmus+ programme. We introduced some unprecedented measures and opened up [for Ukraine] the Erasmus programme – for students it was a period of up to 12 months for a study cycle – using all the standard rules of the Erasmus+ programme that were applied to intra-European mobility.

“This has been hugely used and popular, especially in the border regions of the European Union,” she said, adding: “It offers a temporary opportunity to continue studying as we, in our contacts with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education, have been made very well aware that we should not foster brain drain [from Ukraine].”

“In the neighbouring countries to Ukraine but also beyond, there is a big wave of solidarity in the higher education sector, trying to help Ukrainian institutions and also those academic staff and students that are fleeing Ukraine,” said Delva.

She pointed to European university initiatives such as the European Campus of City-Universities (EC2U) Alliance that has already set up cooperation agreements with universities in Ukraine under the new scheme.

The EC2U is a multicultural, multilingual alliance consisting of seven countries: Portugal, Romania, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Finland.

Delva noted that Erasmus+ cooperation programmes with Russian institutions were now being stopped although people-to-people cooperation continues, “to make sure that we do not punish the ordinary Russian citizen who wants to come through mobility [programmes] to Europe”.

European Strategy for Universities

Delva said the EU’s European Strategy for Universities will also be increasing transnational cooperation across countries beyond the EU.

“The European Universities Initiative was set up for European universities, so the main partners come from the Erasmus+ programme countries. This will remain the case but there are many other ways to cooperate with the European university,” Delva said.

She pointed to agreements underway as part of the internationalisation strategy of several European universities, such as the **Eutopia European University** – a 10-member alliance that includes universities in Romania, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, France, Sweden, Slovenia, Spain and the UK.

Nonetheless, Delva acknowledged that universities face obstacles to more effective transnational cooperation. In a **recent EU survey** 92% of universities noted many barriers to transnational cooperation, she said.

Integrating teaching across borders and creating joint degrees between universities has been hampered by legal and regulatory red tape within different EU countries, with legislation prohibiting some universities from sharing responsibilities for assessment of standards with other international institutions.

To address this, the European Commission put forward a proposal which recommends that member states provide the legal statute for alliances of higher education institutions.

“This is why we have come up with the European higher education package to better position the European higher education sector in the global scene,” Delva said.

She was referring to the **European Strategy for Universities unveiled by the European Commission in January**, which is described as a policy vision for the future of higher education and for universities and member states to work together.

The strategy recommendations were adopted last month by EU education ministers, including a recommendation to make transnational cooperation easier for university groups.

Reinforcing and creating alliances

This comes alongside the expansion of the European Universities Initiative. The European Commission launched its latest €272 million (US\$290 million) Erasmus+ call at the end of November to reinforce existing university alliances and create new ones, expanding from 41 alliances involving 280 universities in the EU to 60 alliances, with more than 500 universities by mid-2024.

Already the number of partners in such alliances is increasing from around four-to-five partners to nine or 10. “With so many universities we see that sometimes administrative bottlenecks linked to the setting up of these programmes are multiplied because of the different national frameworks that are in place,” Delva said.

“This is where we will work together with the member states and the stakeholders [universities] and the aim would be creating common criteria leading to a European label for joint programmes to be piloted this year under Erasmus+,” she said.

CHARM European University has been operating for two years and Meritxell Chaves, the University of Barcelona’s coordinator for CHARM, said the alliance, which involves universities in Ireland, the Netherlands, Hungary and France, is expanding to add three more – one in Finland and two in Germany.

She noted that such alliances have a broad impact on participating universities. “This is impacting people at home, not just the people directly involved or travelling,” she said, noting a huge interest in the programmes.

But she also said that at the institutional level “all this innovation clashes with rules and regulations and what we are used to doing ... This generates internal tension. But it is part of the game if we need to change”.

‘We are the icebreakers’

“We are the icebreakers,” she said, pointing out that countries such as Spain and Hungary changed their legislation for all their universities to allow such collaborations.

Around the world, countries likely to take part in the Erasmus+ initiatives to extend mobility outside Europe include Brazil, Mexico, North African countries and, in Asia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Darren McDermott, team leader for European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU SHARE), told *University World News* the allocation of Erasmus+ budget funding to activities under the EU's external action initiatives under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe is entirely consistent with the EU's commitment towards promoting people-to-people connectivity worldwide.

"It enables the strengthening of societies through educational exchanges, student mobility and capacity building. This, in turn, reinforces links between Europe and the rest of the world.

"Southeast Asia and particularly the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are very well placed to participate in these new initiatives," he said.

Higher education institutions and regional entities in ASEAN member states have been engaged in a process of integration and capacity building on internationalisation for well over a decade and, more recently, have established regional structures, frameworks and communities of practice in collaboration with EU partners and the EU's flagship higher education programme with ASEAN, the EU SHARE programme, he said.

"International Credit Mobility and other higher education initiatives such as Erasmus+ in Asia implemented the Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) programme. The first generations of this proved very popular across Asia amongst a variety of institutions which collaborated with European partners," said McDermott.

Manzoni said Erasmus+ is also starting a series of actions to boost traineeships in private companies and to increase their quality in this diverse and unregulated sector.

The European Commission will soon start work with the Erasmus national agencies in 33 countries, "to define whether we want to create a 'charter' for employers" that hosts trainees to set out a set of minimal quality standards "that we can all agree on and that need to be respected", she said.

Information from: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20220526104242809>

Many students are craving more connection with their peers

Author: Jack Goodman

20 May 2023

After a difficult few years of remote study and campus ‘ghost towns’, how can universities bring students back together and increase their feeling of connectedness and belonging?

That’s one of the areas explored in this year’s Australian and New Zealand Student Wellbeing Survey*, commissioned by online study service **Studiosity**, and now in its eighth year.

The survey asked university students whether they connected with peers as much as they would like, for which two in three answered ‘no’, they would like to connect more, and this was slightly higher for first-year student cohorts (70%). The survey also asked those studying on-campus what would make them want to come to campus more often, and the most common response was “knowing more students”.

There was also an evident correlation between students’ level of connection with their peers and feelings of stress. Students who didn’t connect with other students as much as they would like were stressed more often.

Why aren’t students connecting?

What’s interesting is that universities are filled with clubs, societies and peer support programmes. They are a hallmark of the university experience. So why do so many students in 2023 feel like they’re not connected enough?

Professor Sally Kift, a leading scholar on the first-year student experience and a member of Studiosity’s Academic Advisory Board, says: “Peer support programmes like PASS (Peer Assisted Study Sessions) are invaluable for students who know about them and take up the opportunity to participate in peer-facilitated learning.

“For those who do, there is robust evidence that they will get better results, have lower failure and withdrawal rates and be retained and graduate at higher rates. To accommodate demands for greater flexibility in 2023, institutions need to meet students where they are – online and-or face-to-face – and offer integrated opportunities for connection, relationship-building and social learning in ways that fit in with their often complex lives.”

The 2023 Student Wellbeing report shows that only 28% of students make use of their university’s peer support services. The main reasons for not engaging with this type of programme were lack of need (47%) and lack of awareness (30%). Others were too self-conscious to engage or were not sure how to reach out. Others claimed they were too busy.

Reaching out vs 'checking in'

There still seems to be something of a stigma around reaching out – asking for help. Every first-year student can benefit from educationally purposeful peer interaction – activities designed for students to work both academically and socially with one another.

But so few actually seek out these services and opportunities for fear of judgment or lack of understanding or awareness. Nearly half of the students surveyed (46%) also admitted that they found it hard to ask other students questions when they first enrolled.

When it comes to how students really want to connect with one another, 45% said they would prefer someone to 'check in' on them, rather than them reaching out. This rose to 55% for the 18- to 19-year-old demographic.

It indicates that universities have an opportunity to create routine, embedded peer connection activities that are outbound from the institution, as well as inbound from the students.

'Belonging opportunities'

As Kift says: "The first-year experience is a critical area of focus for universities. Early student experiences – whether new learners settle well into university – are key to building a sense of belonging and self-efficacy. A positive transition-in experience and instilling that sense of 'I belong here' for every student sets them up for learning, persistence, success and well-being over the course of their degree."

"Negative first interactions can make students feel like they are 'imposters' who don't fit in or belong. We should treat every interaction that we have with students as a belonging opportunity," says Kift.

"This latest research report echoes findings from similar studies conducted internationally, providing some interesting insights into what students actually want in that regard. They want to feel more connected to one another and be better and more flexibly supported by their institution."

Fortunately, 74% of first-year students agreed there is a 'strong sense of community' at their university, so Australian and New Zealand universities are definitely doing something right. Sense of community was also found to be related to levels of stress, with those who felt they had a strong sense of community slightly less likely to be stressed weekly or more (69%) than those who did not have this community sense (77%).

Creating connections, at scale

There is a clear appetite among students, particularly first-year students, for more connection and **many universities are starting to facilitate** those purposeful peer connections as part of the routine for first years in a scaled, online way in 2023 – a precursor for them to physically return to campus, as the survey shows.

Institutions can leverage this preference data to deliver the experience students want and engage them early on in their learning communities.

It is well documented that students who feel connected to their university, their peers, and feel part of a learning community, tend to do better – both academically and in terms of their well-being. They are engaged in their learning and see their university experience as valuable and beneficial. For first years in particular, growing peer connections and a sense of community will undoubtedly reap benefits for individuals and institutions alike.

*Jack Goodman founded **Studiosity** in 2003 in Sydney. Studiosity now partners with universities around the world to grow student success at scale by connecting students to experts and peers, helping thousands to progress and succeed with their studies, regardless of their study mode, background, personal circumstances or location.*

*Research was conducted and analysed by YouthInsight and Student Edge. The data is based on analysis of over 1,000 Australian and New Zealand university student responses in November-December 2022. The students who participated in this study were 18-30+ years old and consisted of a mix of both domestic and internationally enrolled students. You can download the full chapter with the above data [here](#).

Information from: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20230516113927322>

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

International Conference on Civil and Mechanical Engineering - (ICCME-23)

18 July, 2023

Atlanta, Georgia



International Conference on Civil and Mechanical Engineering aims to become the leading annual conference in fields related to Civil and Mechanical Engineering. The goal of is to gather scholars from all over the world to present advances in the relevant fields and to exchanging ideas and information related to Civil and Mechanical Engineering. This conference will also provide an ideal environment to develop new collaborations and meet experts on the fundamentals, applications, and products of the mentioned fields.

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

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- Automation and Robotics
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- Artificial Neural Network
- Structural Optimization

- Fuzzy Logic System
- Earth science and Earthquake Engineering
- Compact Heat Exchangers
- Nanotechnology in Construction Engineering
- Solar Photo -Voltaic Cells
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- Intelligent Transport System
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- Rain water Harvesting
- Lean Manufacturing and Reverse Engineering
- Green Building Design

More information: <https://sciencesociety.co/conf/index.php?id=2007716&source=Science%20Society>

International Conference on Innovation in Civil & Architecture (ICICA-23)

26 July, 2023

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

Hybrid Event - (In-person or Virtual participation)



The **International Conference on Innovation in Civil & Architecture (ICICA-23)**, is the premier conference for students, academicians, researchers, faculties, and industry professionals from around the world. The conference will be held on **26th July, 2023** in **Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia**, and will bring together experts and thought leaders from a wide range of fields to share their insights and expertise. The goal is to provide a platform for discussion, collaboration, and innovation.

Theme and Goals:

The goals for this conference are to:

- **🎯** Foster collaboration and innovation across different fields and industries.
- **🎯** Showcase cutting-edge research and best practices.
- **🎯** Provide a platform for thought leaders to share their insights and expertise
- **🎯** Facilitate networking and knowledge-sharing among attendees.

The organizers believe that by achieving these goals, can help drive progress and create positive change in the world.

Whether you're a student, academician, researcher, faculty member, or industry professional, you are invited to join us at this conference and help shape the future of your field:

Civil Engineering

- Structural Engineering
- Monitoring and Control Of Structures
- Structural Rehabilitation, Retrofitting and Strengthening
- Reliability and Durability of Structures
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Geological Engineering
- Tunnel, Subway and Underground Facilities
- Seismic Engineering
- Hydraulic Engineering
- Coastal Engineering
- Water Supply and Drainage Engineering
- Heating, Gas Supply, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Works
- Disaster Prevention and Mitigation
- Cartography and Geographic Information System
- Surveying Engineering
- Computational Mechanics
- Construction Technology
- Computer Simulation and CAD/CAE

Architecture, Building Materials and Engineering Management

- Architectural Design and Its Theory
- Building Technology Science
- Urban Planning and Design
- Landscape Planning and Design
- Architectural Environment & Equipment Engineering
- Ecological Architecture
- Traditional Construction Materials
- Advanced Construction Materials
- Project Management
- Monitoring and Control of Quality Engineering
- Engineering Management

Sustainable Development of Building Energy and Environment

- Sustainable City and Regional Development
- Renewable Energy and Building Energy Saving
- Indoor Environment
- City Ecological Environment
- Water Purification and Wastewater Treatment
- Air Environment Control and Architectural Environment Improvement Techniques

- Environmental Engineering and Environmental Protection
- Urban Rail and Traffic Engineering
- Road and Railway Engineering
- Transportation Planning, Construction and Operation Organization
- Bridge Engineering
- Traffic Control and Information Technology
- Carrier Operation Engineering

More information: <https://researchfoundation.net/event/index.php?id=1996152>

ICECGE 2023: 17. International Conference on Earthworks, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering

03-04 August, 2023

Vancouver, Canada



The International Research Conference Aims and Objectives

The International Research Conference is a federated organization dedicated to bringing together a significant number of diverse scholarly events for presentation within the [conference program](#). Events will run over a span of time during the conference depending on the number and length of the presentations. With its high quality, it provides an exceptional value for students, academics and industry researchers.

International Conference on Earthworks, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Earthworks, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Earthworks, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering.

Call for Contributions

Prospective authors are kindly encouraged to contribute to and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts, papers and e-posters. Also, high quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work in all areas of Earthworks, Civil and Geotechnical Engineering are cordially invited for presentation at the conference.

The participants are invited to submit original research contributions relating to all aspects of:

Earthworks	Earth excavation
Earthworks engineering	Rock excavation
Applications of earthworks engineering	Muck excavation
Advances in earthworks engineering	Unclassified excavation
Earthworks and geotechnical engineering	Stripping
Earthwork constructions and structures	Roadway excavation
Earthworks engineering in civil engineering	Drainage or structure excavation
Earthworks engineering in military applications	Bridge excavation
Soil and rock mechanics of earthworks	Channel excavation
Earthworks design, construction, and completion requirements	Footing excavation
Earthworks maintenance and repairs	Borrow excavation
Foundation engineering	Dredge excavation
Soil stabilization	Underground excavation
Soil and unformed rock	Roads, railway beds, causeways, dams, levees, canals, and berms
Topsoil excavation	Land grading

More information: <https://waset.org/earthworks-civil-and-geotechnical-engineering-conference-in-august-2023-in-vancouver>

ICDCE 2023: 17. International Conference on Design in Civil Engineering

03-04 August, 2023

Lagos, Nigeria

The International Research Conference Aims and Objectives

The International Research Conference is a federated organization dedicated to bringing together a significant number of diverse scholarly events for presentation within the [conference program](#). Events will run over a span of time during the conference depending on the number and length of the presentations. With its high quality, it provides an exceptional value for students, academics and industry researchers.



International Conference on Design in Civil Engineering aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Design in Civil Engineering. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Design in Civil Engineering.

Call for Contributions

Prospective authors are kindly encouraged to contribute to and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts, papers and e-posters. Also, high quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work in all areas of Design in Civil Engineering are cordially invited for presentation at the conference. The conference solicits contributions of abstracts, papers and e-posters that address themes and topics of the conference, including figures, tables and references of novel research materials.

The participants are invited to submit original research contributions relating to all aspects of:

- Civil engineering design
- Civil engineering design software
- Computer aided design applications
- Design for climate change
- Design for minimizing and using construction and demolition waste
- Design and technologies for energy efficiency and conservation
- Design for flexibility
- Design for security and sustainability
- Life cycle for civil engineering systems
- Innovation and optimization in structural design
- Data modeling, management, and mining

All conference materials and services will be delivered digitally to the participant with the online conference management system. Conference registration includes the following digital materials and services:

- e-certificates [for Authors: Certificate of Attendance and Presentation; for Listeners: Certificate of Attendance; for Chairs: Certificate of Attendance and Appreciation; for Presenters: Certificate of Best Presentation (if conferred based appraisal)]
- e-program
- e-book
- e-name badge
- e-receipt
- e-presentation

Presentation Types:

- **Physical presentation** is an oral conferencing presentation that is made using digital technology including embedded digital elements (texts, tables, graphs, or videos) for PowerPoint sharing.
- **Digital presentation** is a digital conferencing presentation that is made using digital technology including embedded digital elements (texts, tables, graphs, or videos) for PowerPoint sharing.

More information: <https://waset.org/design-in-civil-engineering-conference-in-august-2023-in-lagos>

International Conference on Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Civil and Mechanical Engineering (ICECCME) - Science Leagues

11-12 October, 2023

Bogota, Colombia



International Conference on Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Civil and Mechanical Engineering organizing committee with great honor extending you a warm invitation to attend the International Conference on Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Civil and Mechanical Engineering which is slated to held in 11th October to 12th October 2023 in Bogota, Colombia.

The Conference will offer a wide platform to share vital and recent innovations in the arena Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Civil and Mechanical Engineering. It also has a wonderful space for both scientific presentations like oral, poster and commercial exhibition.

ICEECME have an exciting program that will allow the participants to reflect upon and celebrate the past accomplishments, renew friendships, extended networking opportunities, foster communication between speakers and delegates and jointly unveil current and future research directions.

Objective

The main objective is to promote scientific and educational activities towards the advancement of common man's life by improving the theory and practice of various disciplines and sectors of Science Leagues being one of the largest professional association of South Asia organizes conferences, workshop, seminars and/or awareness programs by providing the technical and other supports to improve research and development activities, publishing high quality academic international journals as well as up to date and current transactions.

Call for Paper

- Electrical, electronics, computer science and mechanical engineering
- Electrical engineering
- Communication engineering
- Computer engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Physics
- Mathematical modeling
- Nano technology
- Cloud computing
- Image sensing
- Information technology
- Security system
- Environmental science
- Networking
- Embedded system

Important Dates



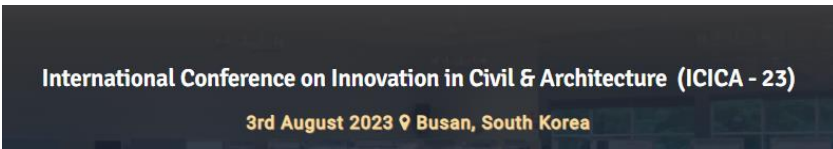
Final Paper Submission 26th September 2023

Last Date of Registration 4th October 2023

Conference Date 11th October 2023

More information: <https://scienceleagues.com/events/index.php?id=2049347&source=Scienceleagues>

CALENDAR

Date	Event	Place
06.07.2023	International Conference on Electrical, Electronics, Computer , Civil and Mechanical Engineering (ICEECCME-23)	Copenhagen, DENMARK
	 <p>Hybrid Event International Conference on Electrical, Electronics, Computer , Civil and Mechanical Engineering (ICEECCME-23) July 6th 2023 ♀ Copenhagen, Denmark Organized By: Institute for Technical and Academic Research (ITAR)</p>	Hybrid Event
	https://itar.in/conf/index.php?id=1884213	
07-09.07.2023	17 th Danube - European Conference on Geotechnical Engineering	Bucharest, ROMANIA
	 <p>7 - 9.06.2023 DANUBE - EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING 17 DEC GE BUCHAREST</p>	
	https://17decge.ro/	
03.08.2023	International Conference on Innovation in Civil & Architecture (ICICA - 23)	Busan, SOUTH KOREA
	 <p>International Conference on Innovation in Civil & Architecture (ICICA - 23) 3rd August 2023 ♀ Busan, South Korea</p>	
	https://www.iirst.com/event/index.php?id=1906926	

Date	Event	Place
06-07.09.2023	International Conference on Smart Cities and Urban Design	Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC



<https://waset.org/smart-cities-and-urban-design-conference-in-september-2023-in-prague>

19-20.10.2023	2 nd Joint International Conference of EUCEET and AECEF <i>The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education</i>	Pisa, ITALY
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<https://euceetaecef2023.unipi.it/>

20.10.2023	16 th EUCEET Association General Assembly	Pisa, ITALY
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<http://www.euceet.eu/events/euceet.php?id=8>

Date	Event	Place
25-26.10. 2023	International Conference on Coastal Structures and Civil Engineering	Bali, INDONESIA



<https://waset.org/coastal-structures-and-civil-engineering-conference-in-october-2023-in-bali>

01- 03.11.2023	International Conference on Aspects of Language Teaching and Learning ICALTL	Ipoh, MALAYSIA
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<https://researchsociety.co/event/index.php?id=2010760>

11-12.12.2023	ICCEEP 2023: 17. International Conference on Civil Engineering Education and Educational Policies	Rome, ITALY
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<https://waset.org/civil-engineering-education-and-educational-policies-conference-in-december-2023-in-rome>

Date	Event	Place
16-17.12.2023	International Conference on Civil Engineering Education and Learning	Barcelona, SPAIN



<https://waset.org/civil-engineering-education-and-learning-conference-in-december-2023-in-barcelona>

28-29.01. 2024	International Conference on Technology and Engineering Education	Sydney, AUSTRALIA
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https://waset.org/technology-and-engineering-education-conference-in-january-2024-in-sydney?utm_source=conferenceindex&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=listing

13-17.05. 2024	The Fifth European and Mediterranean Structural Engineering and Construction Conference	Vilnius, LITHUANIA
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https://www.isec-society.org/EURO_MED_SEC_05/

Date	Event	Place
12-17.11.2024	XVII Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	Pucón, CHILE



<https://panamgeochile2024.cl>