

FORUM OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCES WROCLAW

CONFERENCE UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
IN THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

DATE

12 - 13 JUNE 2025

LOCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WROCLAW LIBRARY
UL. FRYDERYKA JOLIOT-CURIE 12, WROCLAW

12TH JUNE 2025

8:00 - 9:00

Registration

9:00 - 9:45

Official opening of the Conference

Welcoming addresses:

- ◆ Marcin Kulasek, Minister of Science and Higher Education, Poland
- ◆ Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
- ◆ Patrycja Matusz, Vice-Rector, University of Wrocław

SESSION #1

9:45 - 11:00

The impact of European Universities alliances and best practices in tackling shared challenges

This session will explore the transformative impact of the European Universities Initiative (EUI) on European higher education. It will draw, inter alia, on the European Commission's Report on the Outcomes and Transformation Potential of the European Universities Initiative, published in January 2025. The discussion will then address the major challenges currently facing the 65 alliances and over 570 participating universities, including potential systemic issues at both national and European levels.

Moderator:

- ◆ Dorothy Kelly, ARQUS

Speakers:

- ◆ Ioana Dewandeler, European Commission
- ◆ Beatrix Busse, EUinWell/FOREU4ALL
- ◆ Teofil Jesionowski, EUNICE
- ◆ Maria Kelo, European University Association (EUA)

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

SESSION #2

11:30 - 12:45

Union of Skills Initiative: Key priorities for European Universities Alliances in shaping the future competitiveness of the EU

This session will examine how higher education institutions and European Universities Alliances can act as strategic drivers of the Union of Skills initiative. With the EU's urgent need to develop future-proof skills, panelists will discuss how alliances can advance joint study programmes, ensure mutual recognition of qualifications, promote lifelong learning, and foster talent development. The discussion will also cover universities' roles in addressing labour shortages, collaborating with industry, and building inclusive learning systems that enhance the EU's global competitiveness.

Moderator:

- ◆ Dorota Piotrowska, ECIU

Speakers:

- ◆ Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, European Commission
- ◆ Timothée Toury, EUT+
- ◆ Tayyeb Shah, European Association for International Education (EAIE)
- ◆ Anna Jurkowska-Zeidler, SEA-EU

SESSION #3

13:00 - 14:15

The future of European Universities Initiative – paving the way towards sustainable funding

This session will address the future of the EUI in terms of long-term, sustainable funding. With several years of Erasmus+ support already in place, now is a crucial moment to discuss how the initiative can continue to grow. Panelists will explore models for more holistic and integrated funding, including the complementarity of Erasmus+ with national and regional resources for both teaching and research activities.

Moderator:

- ◆ Patrycja Matusz, Polish Presidency

Speakers:

- ◆ Laurence Farreng, European Parliament
- ◆ Janina Fengel, EUT+
- ◆ Sophia Karner, Una Europa
- ◆ Krzysztof Wasilewski, EU4Dual

14:15 - 15:15

Lunch



SESSION #4

15:15 – 16:30

Optimising impact with and for external stakeholder

This session will focus on how European Universities Alliances engage with external stakeholders to address real-world societal challenges. Participating universities collaborate with partners beyond the academic sector – including SMEs, start-ups, public authorities, and civil society organisations. The session will explore how to foster effective cooperation and assess how such engagement strengthens the competitiveness of European higher education institutions.

Moderator:

- ◆ Laura Howard, Representative, SEA-EU

Speakers:

- ◆ Veronika Kupriyanova, Academic Cooperation Association
- ◆ Manja Klemencic, Harvard University
- ◆ Małgorzata Myśliwiec, Transform4Europe
- ◆ Max Dropiński, SEMI conductors expert

17:00 – 18:00

Networking in Green

We cordially invite all participants to a dedicated networking session highlighting student engagement within the European Universities Initiative. As students are at the heart of the alliances' missions—benefiting from and contributing to mobility, education, research, and innovation—this informal gathering will provide them with a platform to share their perspectives and experiences. The session will take place outdoors, by the green bench next to the University of Wrocław Library, where the Forum is held. It will offer a unique opportunity for dialogue between student representatives and other alliance members, fostering community spirit and mutual inspiration across institutions.

19:00

Concert of the University of Wrocław International Students Orchestra

Location: Oratorium Marianum, the main building of the University of Wrocław, pl. Uniwersytecki 1

We warmly invite all participants to attend a special concert by the University of Wrocław International Students Orchestra – a celebration of diversity, friendship, the universal language of music, and the spirit of Erasmus+ mobility.

20:00

Gala Dinner

Location: Concordia Design, Wyspa Słodowa 7

13TH JUNE 2025

9:30 – 11:00

PARALLEL SESSIONS #5

From European University to European Degree

This session will explore the evolution of joint study programmes within European Universities Alliances in the context of the European Degree. It will address key questions such as: How have universities within alliances been developing and implementing joint programmes? What are the current and future strategies for implementing the European Degree? How are higher education institutions across countries preparing for this initiative? What support is available from National Agencies and authorities? What national policies are being developed to support the European Degree? What practical solutions can address current challenges?

Moderator:

- ◆ Katarzyna Aleksy, National Agency for the Erasmus+ and ESC Programmes

Panelists:

- ◆ Stephan Geifes, DAAD – National Agency for Erasmus+, Germany
- ◆ Vidar Pedersen, Erasmus+ National Agency, Norway
- ◆ Pastora Martinez Samper, UEUE, Spain
- ◆ Carle Bonafous-Murat, France Universités in Brussels
- ◆ Anna Kowalczyk, Erasmus Students' Network, Poland

Students in the centre of EUI

Since their inception, European Universities Alliances have committed to placing students at the heart of their vision. But how is this commitment realised in practice?

This panel will explore how alliances move from intention to implementation in student engagement, representation, and co-creation. Bringing together student leaders from European organisations and active representatives from individual alliances, the session will provide a forward-looking discussion on what it means to centre students in transnational higher education cooperation. The panel will also examine how alliances can foster a culture of meaningful participation, shared governance, and student empowerment across borders.

Moderator:

- ◆ Fernando Galán, ARQUS

Panelists:

- ◆ Lana Par, European Students' Union, Slovenia
- ◆ Rita Dias, Erasmus Students' Network, Portugal
- ◆ Enrico Alexander Green, Student Representative, Germany
- ◆ Itziar Salazar Caballero, Student Representative, Spain

Research and innovation dimension

This session will discuss the evolving role of European Universities Alliances in advancing research and innovation. While the EUI was originally conceived as an educational initiative, many alliances have increasingly incorporated research into their agendas, supporting both basic and applied research across institutions.

The panel will examine the opportunities and limitations of using the EUI framework to stimulate international research collaboration. Moreover, in light of the slow political progress on the European Degree, should alliances revisit their strategic focus and allocate more resources to joint research and innovation initiatives?

Moderator:

- ◆ Dominik Antonowicz, YUFE

Panelists:

- ◆ Adam Gendźwiłł, UW
- ◆ Małgorzata Jacobs-Kozyra, National Science Centre, Poland
- ◆ Barbara Curyło, FORTHEM

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

SESSION #6

11:30 – 12:45

EUI as role model for systemic transformation

In this concluding session, we will explore how the alliances formed within the European Universities Initiative (EUI) can serve as drivers of systemic transformation—not only within their own institutions, but across the broader European higher education landscape. Rather than fostering a two-tier system, alliances are increasingly acting as laboratories of innovation, testing diverse models that reflect the various missions, student populations, and societal roles of Europe’s universities.

The session will highlight the value of institutional diversity and invite both speakers and participants to reflect on what it truly means to be a “role model” in a time when cooperation, resilience, flexibility, and responsiveness are more essential than ever.

Moderator:

- ◆ Emily Helmeid, FOREU4ALL

Speakers:

- ◆ Anaïs Goulko, Campus France
- ◆ Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak, CIVICA
- ◆ Mattia Bellotti, EUTOPIA
- ◆ Piotr Kępski, Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)

12:45 – 14:00

Official closing of the Conference

Summary, remarks, recommendations

14:00

Lunch

