

## 2026 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting

Hosted by the University of Galway, Ireland

17-19 June 2026

### Call for contributions

Deadline for submission: 17 April 2026

The EUA Council for Doctoral Education invites representatives of [EUA-CDE members](#) to submit proposals for contributions to the [2026 EUA-CDE Annual Meeting](#).

The 2026 Annual Meeting '*Doctoral research and talent for the advancement of society*' will be held in Galway, Ireland, from 17-19 June, hosted by the University of Galway.

This year's Annual Meeting will focus on the topic of research collaboration with societal actors and preparing doctoral candidates for a labour market that is wider than academia. As such, the conference will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of doctoral research and talent to society, a topic that has gained renewed attention across Europe and beyond. This focus is closely aligned with current EU policy priorities, notably strengthening Europe's competitiveness and developing the skills needed for Europe to support this effort.

A full description of the conference can be found [here](#).

### Types of contributions

Proposals for two types of contributions will be considered: Presentations in parallel sessions and for the session '*My university's greatest achievements in engaging with society at doctoral level in 180 seconds*'.

#### Parallel sessions

Contributions for the parallel sessions should be related to the theme of the event.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- *Societal engagement in doctoral education*
- *Collaborative doctorates with societal actors (private and public sector, NGOs, or international organisations)*
- *Preparing doctoral candidates for careers beyond academia*
- *Advancing interdisciplinarity at doctoral level*
- *Aligning doctoral research with the SDGs for meaningful societal outreach*
- *Intersectoral mobility*
- *Societal impact and the reform of research assessment*
- *Navigating and supporting the transition of doctoral graduates beyond academia*

We also welcome proposals [on other topics](#) connected to the overall theme of the conference.

Selected contributions will have up to 15 minutes to present in a parallel session at the Annual Meeting, followed by a Q&A session, and should stimulate interaction and discussion with the audience. They may include presentations of case studies or surveys, good practices, national initiatives, or ways of addressing challenges.

**My university's greatest achievements in engaging with society at doctoral level in 180 seconds**

This three-minute format invites contributors to highlight meaningful initiatives, practices or experiences through which doctoral education actively engages with society. Proposals can showcase concrete examples of how doctoral research contributes to tangible societal impact beyond academia.

The goal of this contest is to showcase impactful doctoral-level engagement with society, demonstrating how universities have strengthened societal relevance and have fostered meaningful collaboration with non-academic partners.

At the end of the session, the audience will vote to select the best presentation.

**Selection criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The proposed contribution has a clear focus that will be of interest to the participants.
- The proposed contribution relates to the theme of the conference.
- The argument and structure of the proposed contribution is logical, coherent and understandable.
- The proposed contribution has the potential to start a lively debate.
- The proposed contribution, if presenting examples of institutional practices, is critical and self-reflective.
- The proposed contribution can be presented within the given timeframe.

Applicants should bear in mind that the proposal form will ask for the following information:

- The details for one presenter;
- The details for an additional contact person and up to three co-authors (both optional);
- Event topic (listed above) to which the contribution is most directly related;
- Title of the proposed contribution;
- Brief summary (max. 50 words);
- Abstract.

**IMPORTANT:** Authors of contributions selected for parallel sessions will benefit from a fee reduction, which will be applied through a special registration process. Please note that a special registration fee will be awarded to only one author per contribution.

There is no reduced registration fee for participants in the 'My university's greatest achievements in engaging with society at doctoral level in 180 seconds format'.

All potential contributors are kindly asked to wait to register for the Annual Meeting until the results of the selection process have been announced. Selected contributors are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

For more information, please visit the [event webpage](#) or contact Ana-Maria Peneoasu at [info@eua-cde.org](mailto:info@eua-cde.org).

### Submission

Please note that in the event of acceptance we require contributors to be available for the full duration of the conference. We are unable to accommodate requests to present contributions at specific dates and times.

All proposals should be submitted using one of the forms below, in a single file in Word format, by **17 April 2026** to [info@eua-cde.org](mailto:info@eua-cde.org). Please do not send a hard copy, PDF file or PowerPoint presentation.

[Submission form for parallel sessions](#)

[Submission form for 'My university's greatest achievements in engaging with society at doctoral level in 180 seconds'](#)

### Deadline

The deadline to submit contributions is **17 April 2026**.