

## 2025 EUA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Connecting the dots on sustainability and resilience

Hosted by the University of Latvia, Riga  
10-11 April 2025

#### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Deadline for submission: **Wednesday 19 February 2025, 23.59 CET**

#### Context and objectives

The Annual Conference is the European University Association’s flagship event and brings together between 300-400 senior leadership representatives from higher education institutions across Europe. The [2025 event](#) will be dedicated to the topic of ‘Connecting the dots on sustainability and resilience’.

Hosted by the University of Latvia in Riga, the event will strive to define what sustainability and resilience, as multi-faceted concepts, mean for universities. By ‘connecting the dots’ on these two crucial elements for university success, the conference will explore how universities can contribute to a more sustainable future, both on and off campus, while strengthening institutional and societal resilience.

Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions addressing a range of topics – from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and funding to digitalisation and knowledge security – the event will examine how university leadership and communities can best pursue sustainability and resilience as key objectives of institutional missions, strategies and activities.

In order to showcase good practices from among [its membership](#), **EUA is now inviting contributions for practice presentations** for three breakout sessions at the 2025 Annual Conference:

Breakout session 1A 10 April, 15.10-16.10 EEST Inclusion through digitalisation	Breakout session 2A 11 April, 9.30-10.30 EEST Risk and resilience in knowledge security	Breakout session 2C 11 April, 9.30-10.30 EEST Beyond greening: putting the SDGs into action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Up to three practice presentations will be selected</li> <li>➤ Send your proposals to <a href="mailto:thomas.jorgensen@eua.eu">thomas.jorgensen@eua.eu</a></li> <li>➤ Deadline: 19 February</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Up to three practice presentations will be selected</li> <li>➤ Send your proposals to <a href="mailto:sergiu.matei.lucaci@eua.eu">sergiu.matei.lucaci@eua.eu</a></li> <li>➤ Deadline: 19 February</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Up to six practice presentations will be selected</li> <li>➤ Send your proposals to <a href="mailto:michael.gaebel@eua.eu">michael.gaebel@eua.eu</a></li> <li>➤ Deadline: 19 February</li> </ul>

#### What is a practice presentation?

Practice presentations share and discuss experiences with a particular practice or approach at the institutional, local, regional, national or European level in a self-reflective and critical way, or test ideas for new initiatives

to receive feedback from participants. They invite participants to reflect on whether lessons learnt from a certain practice or approach can be transferred to their contexts, allowing the audience to exchange on similar experiences and on how they compare to the presented practice. To ensure audience engagement, practice presentations are limited to five minutes followed by a structured discussion between presenters and with the audience.

## **General requirements for proposals**

Proposals should:

- identify the presenter;
- include the presenter's short biography (up to 150 words);
- be clearly and concisely written, with a maximum of 600 words;
- present a specific existing practice or approach, including a critical analysis of challenges, benefits and lessons learnt;
- include 1-2 discussion questions;
- be written in English.

## **Specific requirements for proposals – breakout session 1A** **Inclusion through digitalisation**

This breakout session will showcase initiatives that enable more inclusive education through the integration of digital technologies. Proposals should outline concrete examples of how technologies have transformed learning spaces to accommodate a wider range of student profiles or needs. Contributions should prompt reflection on how such approaches might be implemented, and what challenges this might entail, in a similar institutional context.

*Session summary:*

*The integration of digital technologies in education has the potential to transform experiences in teaching and learning. As tools become more accessible, intuitive and adaptive, the possibility of tailoring content and personalising learning pathways to meet the needs of the individual learner becomes more achievable. This session will demonstrate how innovation in and adoption of technologies can transform traditional practices, thereby creating opportunities for participation among a more diverse profile of learner and enhancing universities' role in providing quality education for all.*

## **Specific requirements for proposals – breakout session 2A** **Risk and resilience in knowledge security**

This session will showcase risk management tools and practices tailored to existing and potential security breaches in R&I. It will illustrate university responses to foreign interference threats, the steps taken to restore regular functioning and operations in the aftermath of disruptions, as well as lessons learnt to ensure future resilience. Contributions should trigger discussion about how to allocate roles and responsibilities for risk appraisal, and how to coordinate effective measures with relevant public authorities.

*Session summary:*

*Discussions on knowledge security have ranged from the culture of risk awareness in universities to frameworks and tools for managing risks in balanced yet effective ways. As policy makers explore ever more targeted measures to ensure security and autonomy in key R&I areas, the university sector faces critical choices in terms of capacity building for responsible internationalisation. As these choices bring major consequences for institutional resilience and the sustainability of scientific partnerships, this session will assess how universities are managing risks and threats to their knowledge assets.*

## **Specific requirements for proposals – breakout session 2C**

### **Beyond greening: putting the SDGs into action**

This session is an opportunity to illustrate strategic approaches to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including and beyond environmental sustainability. Contributions should showcase examples of addressing the SDGs in different university missions and cover aspects of practical implementation, as well as the impact on the institution and its wider environment. They should prompt a discussion on ways forward, challenges faced and how to overcome them, as well as how EUA may support its members in realising their own actions towards putting the SDGs into action.

#### *Session summary:*

*Sustainability is high on the agenda of European universities. Institutions frame sustainability in diverse ways, with some focusing on greening, and others taking a much broader view. There is also much to be learned from how the higher education sector addresses sustainability in day-to-day activities, across all university missions. Through a peer learning approach, this session will explore how universities are currently translating their strategies on the SDGs and greening into concrete actions.*

### **Submission of proposals**

All proposals should be submitted:

- in Word format, in one single file, by email;
- to the contact indicated for each session in the table on page 1 of this document;
- no later than the deadline of **Wednesday 19 February 2024, 23.59 CET**; submissions received after this time will not be considered.

**IMPORTANT:** Presenters of selected practice presentations will be entitled to a reduced conference registration fee, which will be applied during the registration process. If you have submitted a proposal, please do not register for the Annual Conference until the results of the selection process have been announced. Please note that the reduced registration fee will be awarded only to one author per proposal, and only to representatives of [EUA member institutions](#).

### **Selection**

Proposals will be assessed by members of the EUA Secretariat on the basis of the following criteria:

The proposal:

- matches the session theme;
- is coherent, understandable and comprehensive enough to provide a clear picture of the practice;
- presents a practice deemed relevant for participants and contains lessons that are transferable to diverse contexts;

- has the potential to sustain a lively discussion.

No proposal for commercial purposes will be accepted. EUA will take into account the need for the conference programme to be balanced geographically in selecting practice presentations.

You will be informed in late February/early March 2025 if your proposal has been accepted. Selected proposals may receive comments on how they should be amended before the Annual Conference. Please note that no feedback can be provided on unsuccessful proposals.

All correspondence will be by e-mail.