



Professor Anastas Gerdjikov, Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and the Conference Organising Committee are pleased to invite you to participate in the

2nd UNICA ‘UNIVERSITY, CULTURE AND THE CITY’ CONFERENCE:

THE UNIVERSITY AS AN URBAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

29-31 May 2017

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

The event follows the 1st UNICA “University, Culture and the City” Conference held in Lisbon, 16-17 May 2016, devoted to the partner relationships between cities, autonomous universities and mobile students.

The ‘University as an Urban Cultural Institute’ Conference in Sofia will focus on how cultural diversity can be implemented at universities and how scientific research and academic culture can open up to the city and become a significant factor in urban and cultural life. The conference is open to scholars, policy and decision makers and practitioners with experience and interest in the above-mentioned topic. The conference will consist of academic and policy oriented panels and will aim at addressing both theoretical and practical issues of the relationship between the universities and the city life.

Call for papers

The Conference Organising Committee welcomes paper submissions covering the topics in line with one of the two thematic strands detailed below.

Please submit your application, including the title of the paper, a 250-word abstract and a short biography to Mrs. Slavka Karakusheva from the Sofia University at skarakusheva@admin.uni-sofia.bg.

Deadline for this Call for papers is **15 March 2017**.



The Conference Organising Committee welcomes two kinds of contributions related to:

1. The relationship between urban, cultural, social and academic policies.

2. Academic research on the city, urban, cultural and social life, citizens' cultural and social involvement and the role of universities in those processes.

The conference will have one plenary session for papers discussing more general issues and additionally, depending on how many abstracts we receive several workshops that will tackle more concrete topics.

The following topics and issues are suggested:

Strand I: Cultural and educational policies.

- What is the model of effective interaction between cultural and academic policies, which will best serve citizens' needs and expectations? Where is the intersection between cultural policies, research and education? Global, national and local (urban) tasks of universities and academic policies in relation to the city.
- How does the city and its council cooperate with universities, what are the balances and priorities of the city council in this respect, how can be achieved a fair distribution of resources among a large number of universities and research institutes in a large city? Cooperation models and best practices of urban policy towards autonomous universities. Promotion models by the city council for science, research and young scholars (organizing a night of scholars, open days at universities, special policies towards university cultural centers and student art groups, etc.).
- How do universities seek contact with urban cultural life, what are the models and best practices for "opening up" universities to the cities? How do universities contribute to enhancing social cohesion, decentralization and creative involvement in urban social and cultural life? How much can they be incubators of ideas and values, cultural and art practices that are important for urban life?
- Universities as economic players in "animating" the city and the development of urban economy. Can universities be involved in cultural and creative industries?
- The civic role of universities as educators of political and moral values; new models of a civic University.
- Decentralization within universities: The role of art faculties and departments. Cultural and art initiatives. The role of university cultural centers. Types, academic institutionalization, mission and function. The role of students and teachers in urban cultural life: cultural and art initiatives coming from the academia.
- The city council's policy towards the youth, student movements and events. Cooperation between the city council and universities in relation to the urban cultural policies.



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- Decentralization 2: Models and cooperation between universities and other cultural organizations in the city: global, national and urban. Building bridges: examples and best practices.

Strand II

2.1. Organization of scientific research

- Types of university research institutions and units conducting research on cities.
- Urban research paradigms.
- Scientific disciplines studying the city, current state, trends and development, interdisciplinary contacts.

2.2. Research on urban social and cultural life.

- Studying audiences. Students as a specific and active audience.
- Studying types of stakeholders in urban policies.
- Studying the civic role of universities.
- Studying the economic role of universities in urban context.
- Studying urban cultural consumption.
- Studying urban cultural geography, centralization and decentralization.
- Studying the role of youth and students in urban life.

2.3. How does research create informed urban policies?

- How can academic research be of benefit to the cultural and educational policies in a large city?
- Information provision models of the city councils, the role of universities, faculties, departments and laboratories in this respect.
- Information access models for active citizens. Academic information provision for NGOs and cultural operators.
- City database.
- Databases for managing cultural heritage.
- Universities as knowledge potential for alternative urban tourism: maps of the “different” city (official and alternative art scene, sites of memory, sites of minorities, sites of specific cultural practices, sites of subcultures and youth scene, etc.).
- Types of laboratories and research units for urban research.