



# Design of European degrees – Building flexible pathways beyond academic cycles

Promoted by the University of Bucharest – Interdisciplinary School  
of Doctoral Studies (ISDS) in partnership with UNICA and CIVIS



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### UNICA EduLAB European Conference

### “Design of European degrees – Building flexible pathways beyond academic cycles”

Promoted by the [University of Bucharest](#) – [Interdisciplinary School of Doctoral Studies \(ISDS\)](#)  
in partnership with [UNICA](#) and [CIVIS](#)

#### Format and dates of the conference:

**Blended format** (onsite at the University of Bucharest & online), **26-27 May 2022**

#### Conference webpage:

<https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-edulab-european-conference2022/>

#### Introduction

Universities need to stand at the forefront of leading the trend for innovating the learning environment, evolving societal needs, and tackling global issues and community development. The pace of change in learning has been drastically speeded-up during the last years, with a significant impact on digitalisation, innovative pedagogical approaches, equal access to opportunities, inclusion and learning mobility / portability.

The new educational paradigms, seen in many cases as real challenges for tomorrow’s education, can represent opportunities for adopting greater learning flexibility in a digitally enhanced environment, with a special focus on new ways of designing learning in higher education. European higher education, especially through the European Universities Initiative and the new objectives of the European Higher Education Area, becomes the most suitable arena for testing and refining innovative ways of transforming this educational offer from a one-to-all model towards agile and personalised learning opportunities at a larger, European scale. European Degrees can be instrumental in this respect. Embedding different innovative components, such as micro-credentials, digitally enhanced mobilities, learning portability and digital credentials, flexible curricula and modularisation of learning,

European Degrees become not just innovative products of the future of education, but can play the role of key levers for achieving real transformations and building up new fully recognisable and portable learning pathways models in higher education.

- *What are the main challenges in these processes and how can European approaches reshape this endeavour, supporting not only European Universities, but the entire educational landscape for valid transformations?*
- *How can existing structures and experiences support and enhance future developments, in relation with academic degrees, doctoral education, scientific networking, and university cooperation?*
- *How can new tools, such as joint programmes, micro-credentials, and digitally enhanced mobility, be used to better cater to the changing needs of students, academics, and institutions?*
- *How can we build new governance models for higher education innovation, what are the main stakeholders, and what types of structural changes can they generate for the future?*
- *What is the envisaged architecture and how can it work on a vision for European and international higher education and research in the second quarter of the 21st century? What needs to be changed and what is to be kept?*

**The Conference organizers invite colleagues from UNICA member universities as well as academics, researchers and experts from other institutions**, to share their experiences and efforts for shaping a European educational landscape where innovation and change are the main keywords, linking research and practice with new flexible learning components and opportunities for the academic communities.

In particular, we are looking for **short (max 10-minute) contributions which will feed into the discussions of Session 1 of the Conference “Taking stock of accumulated experience and good practices”**, scheduled on Thursday, **26 May 2022** (11:30 am -13:30 pm CEST and 15:00-16:00 pm CEST).

## General Topics of interests

1. Joint Degrees
2. Recognition of Non-formal / Informal Learning Outcomes
3. Digitally Enhanced (Virtual) Mobility
4. International Doctoral Cooperation

### Suggested sub-topics

#### 1. From joint degrees to flexible pathways

- Transitioning from a European vision to institutional practices;
- Creating a frame for educational building blocks;
- Creating flexible learning pathways in doctoral education. A framework for innovation and change;

#### 2. New perspectives on traditional cycles: BA, MA, PhD

- Assessing existing structures. Identifying future innovation pathways;
- Identifying new governance models for higher education innovation;
- Reflecting on the transition from traditional cycles to new learning pathways;

### 3. Towards a European approach to micro-credentials

- Discussing what is needed for implementing a credible framework for combining micro-credentials into a recognized qualification;
- Evaluating the use of new tools for better answering the changing needs of students;
- Designing solutions for implementing micro-credentials;

### 4. New leadership for designing the new European programmes / Policies for designing new European study programmes

- Examining “old” and “new” stakeholders in the higher education landscape;
- Assessing the role of European Universities in designing new European study programmes;
- Proposing structural changes necessary for implementing European programmes;

## Important Dates

- **Abstract submission:** 15 May 2022
- **Notification of acceptance:** 22 May 2022
- **Dates of the conference:** 26-27 May 2022

## Submission instructions

- 1) Interested researchers must submit their abstracts **by 15 May 2022** via this [online submission form](#)
- 2) The scientific committee of the conference will evaluate the proposals based on their relevance to the general topics of interest, degree of innovation, and expected outcomes.
- 3) Successful applicants will be notified by email no later than **22 May 2022**.
- 4) The authors of the accepted proposals shall prepare a presentation (10 minutes) for one of the parallel sessions of the conference. Presentations will be submitted after the conference, no later than 10 June 2022.

## [SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT VIA THIS ONLINE FORM](#)

## Guidelines for submission

- *Language:* English;
- *Abstract:* up to 200 words, in English;
- *Keywords:* 5 words in English;
- *Font:* Times New Roman;
- *Spacing:* 1pct (single);
- *Text alignment:* justify;
- *Margins:* normal;
- *Format:* Microsoft Word (docx);
- *References:* footnotes, using APA citation style;
- *Information about the author:* name, surname, and institutional affiliation (if any). Further details about the research activity of the author and contact information can be provided in a note at the end of the text;
- *Acknowledgments:* if relevant;
- *Presentation:* PowerPoint and PDF formats are accepted, 10 minutes (presentation time)

## Further information about the Conference

- Regular updates about the Conference, practical information for the participants and the registration form are available on the event webpage:  
<https://www.unica-network.eu/event/unica-edulab-european-conference2022/>;
- **Fee:** No registration/participation fee is required;
- **REGISTRATION: participation is free but registration is mandatory.** Participants and speakers are kindly invited to **register via the form available on [the event webpage](#) no later than Monday, 16 May for onsite attendance | Monday, 23 May for remote attendance.**

## Contacts

For any doubts or questions regarding the present call, please contact:

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