

UNICA EduLAB webinar

“University-based Schools of Education serving capital cities in Europe”

9 May 2023

Biographies of speakers

Romita Iucu | President of the Board of Trustees, University of Bucharest | Chair



Prof. Romita Iucu is the President of the Board of Trustees, of the renowned higher education institution in Romania’s Capital City, the University of Bucharest and professor at the Department of Educational Sciences. He has been appointed as Steering Committee Member of the EUA – European University Association, Teaching and Learning Initiative. Professor Iucu held several professional and management positions (former Acting Rector of the University of Bucharest 2016-2017, Vice

Rector for Academic Affairs, for more than 16 years) on designing, managing and validating higher education and adult education policies, at international and national level. He was, since 2010 to 2015, the ENTEP Coordinator (European Network on Teacher Education Policies) and between 2016-2017 country representative in The BFUG - Bologna Follow-up Group. In the field of Policy analysis and development: Vice-President National Council for Educational Reform, EU - member of Cluster Teachers and trainers, EU - member of the Expert Group on Improving the Education of teachers and trainers, in 2015-2016, he was the Coordinator of QUALITAS - Barometer of Higher Education (National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), MoE Ministry of Education and Research (deputy general director, designed and implemented the National Strategy for Adult Education), Consultant for Teacher Training Policies, National Socrates Agency / EURIDYCE – consultant for lifelong learning policies and country expert in the Modernization of Higher Education in Europe -Academic Staff - 2017, UNICEF – Coordinator for National Project – Strategy for Preschool Teacher Training, World Bank expert for rural Romanian Education. Since 2011 he has been inducted as a member of the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. He was working for ECORYS as country expert dealing with NRP, Themes of the Ad-Hoc requests, country updates.

Luciano Saso | UNICA President | Welcome

Prof. Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) is author of more than 300 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (H-index Google Scholar 53, Scopus 43). He coordinated several research projects in the field of pharmacology and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations, and he is currently Vice-Rector for the European University Networks UNICA and CIVIS at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 20 years, he participated in several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences. Prof. Saso assumed the role of Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015). In October 2015, he was elected President for a first term (2016-2019) and he was re-elected President for a second term (2020-2023) in 2019.



Liviu Matei | Head of School of ECS, King's College London | Speaker

Dr Liviu Matei is the Head of the King's School of Education, Communication & Society. Prior to joining ECS in March 2022, he was Professor of Higher Education Policy at the Central European University (CEU), where he directed the Yehuda Elkana Center for Higher Education, a collaborative academic initiative promoting applied policy research and professional training in higher education.



Dr Matei established the European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities and the Global Teaching Fellowship Programme; and founded the Global Observatory on Academic Freedom, which is supported by the Open Society University Network, and the Open Society Research Platform, in 2021. He served on the Steering Committee of CIVICA - The European University of Social Sciences.

In addition to teaching at universities in Europe and the US, Dr Matei has consulted in the area of higher education policy and conducted applied policy research projects for the World Bank, UNESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and other international organisations (intergovernmental and non-governmental), national authorities and universities from Europe and Asia.

Ciprian Ciucu | Mayor Sector 6 of Bucharest | Speaker



Ciprian Ciucu is the Mayor of Sector 6 of Bucharest. He was until 2023 president of the Bucharest organization of the National Liberal Party. Between 2015-2016 he was the president of the National Integrity Council of ANI (the Romanian National Integrity Agency). He resigned in March 2016 to become an independent candidate for Bucharest City Hall. In April 2016, he joined the National Liberal Party, becoming the leader of its list of candidates in the municipal elections. He

was general counsellor of the Municipality of Bucharest from June 2016 to 2019.

He previously worked in the public administration, for the Presidency of Romania, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Economic and Social Council, before deciding to engage in civil society, where he has been active since 2003 in the promotion of educational policies and in the development of anti-corruption projects (Education 2000+ Center, Civil Society Development Foundation). He was also the President, and a Member of the Executive Board of the Romanian Center for European Policies think tank, together with Cristian Ghinea.

Joanne McCartney | Statutory Deputy Mayor of London (UK) | Speaker



Joanne McCartney AM has been a member of the London Assembly since June 2004. As a representative for Enfield and Haringey, Joanne has been vocal about putting the issues that matter to local people on London's political agenda.

In May 2016, Sadiq Khan appointed Joanne to the position of Deputy Mayor of London. Among her duties, Joanne can act on behalf of the Mayor and can represent him at engagements across London.

Joanne is also Deputy Mayor for Children and Families. Her priorities include improving childcare and early-years education, working with London boroughs to provide a good school place for every child, promoting and celebrating excellent teaching in London, and leading a London-wide effort to recruit a new generation of head teachers.

Nikolaos Vafeiadis | Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Athens | Speaker



Nikolaos Vafiadis has been a Municipal Councillor of Athens since 2007. He is currently the Secretary of the Municipal Council, while previously he held the position of Deputy Mayor of Finance (2007-2010).

He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government (2008-2014) and is currently a tax technician at the Ministry of Finance. Graduated from ATEI Piraeus in Finance with postgraduate studies at the Kapodistrian University of Athens and the Department of Public Health Human Resources Management of PA.PEI.

Maria Sfyroera | Professor at School of Education, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens | Speaker



Maria Sfyroera is Associate Professor of Teaching Approaches of Early Childhood Education at the Department of Early Childhood Education of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) in Greece.

She holds a Ph.D. on Educational Sciences from the University of Sorbonne (Paris V). Her research interests focus on Educational Practices, Literacy, Learning and Teaching Strategies, new Technologies and Contemporary Trends in Education, Teacher Education and Minority Education.

Since 1997 she has been involved in many programs for the education of minorities and low SES children in Greece. She is also involved since 1997 in the Students' Practical Training in Schools and in In-service Teachers Training.