

NEWSLETTER 4/2022

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FROM THE EUCEET ASSOCIATION

Brief report about the 15th General Assembly of the EUCEET Association

The 15th General Assembly of the EUCEET Association took place on 30th September 2022, in the hybrid form, from 11.00 to 13.30 Albanian time [Central European Time Zone (CET)], kindly hosted by the POLIS University, Albania. The General Assembly was attended by 16 people, representing 12 institutions members of the Association from 11 countries.

In the Part I of the meeting the President, Prof. Jose Turmo, presented the Report on the activity of the Association between the 14th GA held in Thessaloniki on 12th November 2021 and the 15th GA on 30th September 2022.

Prof. Jean Berlamont, Treasurer, presented the report on the financial situation of the Association and the accounts of 2021, which were approved. The budget for 2022, presented eventually, was also approved.

The Memorandum of Understanding between EUCEET Association and EU-CONEXUS

On behalf of EU-CONEXUS International Steering Committee, the Memorandum was signed by PhD. Andreea Condurache – the coordinator of the International Relations Centre of UTCB and by Prof. Jose Turmo, the President of the EUCEET Association.

The scope of this memorandum is to engage in discussions and exchange information on mutual academic goals in areas of common interest, such as – student mobility, joint academic programs, knowledge transfer, research collaborations.

At the Student mobility level, further activities may include:

- exchanges of undergraduate and graduate students
- visiting students' programs
- summer schools
- study-abroad programs
- language trainings
- internships.

Joint programmes:

- collaborative training of undergraduate and graduate students through joint academic programs (including dual-degree programs)
- co-supervision of doctoral theses (cotutelle).

Knowledge transfer:

- exchange of publications and other academic materials
- exchange of faculty members for teaching
- conferences, workshops and seminars.

Research collaborations:

- exchange of faculty members, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- development of joint research projects and programs
- collaborative scholarly publications.

We believe that this memorandum will be a stepping stone for our community and we are looking forward to the amazing experiences that will benefit our students and will broaden our range of academic opportunities!



Singing the Memorandum of Understanding between EUCEET Association and EU-CONEXUS

PhD Andreea Condurache and Prof. Jose Turmo

In the Part II of the 15th General Assembly of the EUCEET Association, a new Administrative Council was elected for the term 2022-2024, having the following composition:

Country	Name and Surname/Institution	Position
ES	Jose TURMO/ UPC Barcelona Tech	President
LT	Šarūnas SKUODIS/ Vilnius Gediminas Technical University	Vice-President
AL	Ilda RUSI / Polis University	Member
BE	Jaak MONBALIU/ KU Leuven	Member
FR	Thibaut SKRZYPEK/ École des Ponts ParisTech	Member
ES	Jose Antonio LOZANO-GALANT/ University of Castilla-La Mancha	Member
RO	Andreea CONDURACHE/ Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest	Member

Prof. Diego Lo Presti from University of Pisa is the Secretary General of the EUCEET Association.



Group photo with present and new members of the EUCEET Association taken at the 15th General Assembly of the Association, Polis University, Albania

Joint Conference of EUCEET and AECEF, Autumn 2023

2nd Announcement

2nd joint International Conference of EUCEET and AECEF 2J/23 EUCEET+AECEF CONFERENCE WEBSITE

www.euceetaecef2023.unipi.it

19-20 October 2023

PISA – Le Benedettine – University of Pisa Congress Centre



<The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education>

Organized by:

University of Pisa

Dept. of Energy Engineering, Systems, Territory and Constructions

www.unipi.it

Under the auspices of:

EUCEET - European Civil Engineering Education and Training Association

www.euceet.eu

AECEF - The Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties

www.aecef.net

Mode of the Conference

The Conference will be a face-to-face event in Pisa; it may have changed to a hybrid format only for participants who cannot travel from countries with Covid-19 or other major restrictions.

About the Conference

The International Conference on "The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education" is organized under the joint auspices of the European Civil Engineering Education and Training Association (EUCEET) and the Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties (AECEF).

Since the Bologna Declaration the Student-Centred Approach has involved the development of Interactive Teaching/Learning methodologies. Actually, the need for a Green and Digital transition during COVID-years requires the development of appropriate soft skills and sensibility of future Civil Engineers with respect to so-called SDGs such as: Clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, Industry, Innovation, and infrastructures, Sustainable cities and communities, Climate change.

The Conference would offer a scientific base for discussing and comparing traditional and innovative Teaching/Learning approaches with special concern on soft skill development in the field of Civil Engineering.

1st Joint Conference of EUCEET and AECEF, <u>The role of education for Civil Engineers in the implementation</u> of the SDGs, Thessaloniki, Greece, November 12th 2021 (https://websites.auth.gr/euceetaecef2021/)

Conference topics

The following list of topics is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to indicate topics that fall within the aim of the Conference:

- **Topic 1- Future-oriented educational concepts in engineering**
- **Topic 2- Non-traditional laboratories for engineering education**
- **Topic 3- Impact of climate change in engineering education**
- **Topic 4- Student-centred learning environments**
- Topic 5- The role of education for woman leadership in engineering
- **Topic 6- Diversity and inclusion in engineering education**

Conference details

Venue: the Conference will take place in Pisa (Italy) at "Le Benedettine"-University of Pisa Congress Centre from Thursday 19 to Friday 20, October 2023.

Proceedings: the Conference Proceedings will be published in electronic format, provided with ISBN and SCOPUS indexed by SPRINGER.

Official language: English

Conference Program

(Italian time/Pisa)

Thursday 19 October (morning)

8.30-9.00	Participants Registration
9.00-9.30	Opening and welcome notes
9.30-10.15	Keynote lecture
10.15-10.30	Q/A
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-11.45	Keynote lecture
11.45-12.00	Q/A
12.00-13.30	Paper presentations (oral)
	Poster presentations (parallel sessions)
13.30-14.30	Lunch

Thursday 19 October (afternoon)

14.30-15.15	Keynote lecture
15.15-15.30	Q/A
15.30-16.15	Keynote lecture
16.15-16.30	Q/A
16.30-17.00	Tea break
17.00-18.30	Paper presentations (oral)
Poster present	tations (parallel sessions)
20.00 Confer	ence Gala Dinner

Friday 20 October (morning)

-	
8.30-9.00	Participants Registration
9.00-9.45	Keynote lecture
9.45-10.00	Q/A
10.00-10.30	Coffee break
10.30-11.15	Keynote lecture
11.15-11.30	Q/A
11.30-13.00	Paper presentations (oral)
	Poster presentations (parallel sessions) 13.00-13.30 Closing and conclusion notes
13.30-14.30	Lunch

Friday 20 October (afternoon)

14.30-15.00 EUCEET Educational Award 2023

15.30-17.00 EUCEET General Assembly

15:30-17:30 AECEF General Assembly

Organizing Committee

Francesco LECCESE, School of Engineering, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy (Conference Chair)
Jose TURMO, UPC Barcelona Tech, Barcelona, Spain (EUCEET President)
Nicolaos THEODOSSIOU, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece (AECEF President)
Diego Carlo LO PRESTI, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy (EUCEET Secretary-General)
Alfredo SOEIRO, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal (AECEF Secretary-General)

Key dates

1st Announcement: 27 June 2022

2nd Announcement: 5 December 2022

Conference website activation: 11 December 2022 Call for abstract: 11 December 2022 Deadline abstract submission: 11 February 2023 Notification of abstract acceptance 27 February 2023 Deadline full paper submission: 5 May 2023 Full paper review notification: 22 May 2023 Full paper final submission: 20 June 2023 Notification of full paper acceptance: 4 July 2023

Opening of registration: 11 December 2022

Deadline for early registration: 12 July 2023 Final date for payment (late registration): 4 October 2023

Conference registration fees

	Early	Late
EUCEET and AECEF members*	230€	280 €
Other participants	280€	330€
Students, auditors, accompanying person	80€	80€
Virtual participants	50€	50€
Gala dinner (optional)	70 €	

Students, auditors, accompanying person, who intend to attend the Conference without submitting any paper.

At least one of the authors needs to be registered for the conference in order to their paper to be included in the proceedings. The payment of one registration fee is required for each accepted paper.

Conference fees includes

Attendance to Conference sessions (keynotes, paper presentations, poster sessions). Official certificate of Conference attendance/presentation.

Conference Welcome Pack (bag, conference badge, electronic book of abstracts, etc.). Coffee breaks and lunches.

*The Gala dinner is included for EUCEET and for AECEF members.









2023 EUCEET Association call for international research and educational projects funds

Any member of the EUCEET Association (university/institution) can be an applicant for the 2nd EUCEET Educational award for research/educational projects 2023

CONTEST TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Candidates can be eligible exclusively by nomination, either of the directors or deans of the educational centers or of the directors of department.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Nominations must be submitted by deans, by directors of departments or by the contact person with the EUCEET Association sending an email to the General Secretary of the Association, Prof. Diego Lo Presti (d.lopresti@ing.unipi.it) and to the EUCEET Secretariat (Mrs. Mia Trifu mia.trifu@utcb.ro) before 1st June 2023).

The documentation that must be provided includes:

- 1) a data form with basic information (to be downloaded from http://www.euceet.eu/),
- 2) a report,
- 3) a picture of the leader or of the group (for communication purposes) and
- 4) a reference letter signed by directors or deans of the educational centers or by the directors of department
- 5) If applicable a video whose duration might not exceed five minutes can also be included.

Report length should not exceed 20 pages. The reports should incorporate, as far as possible, the information detailed below. Reports can incorporate links to webpages and audiovisual material.

- 1. Scope of work: a subject, a group of subjects, the whole school or other institutions.
- 2. Is the project exportable? Analysis of whether the project can be used in other subjects, schools, countries
- 3. Interdisciplinarity: Does the project involve teachers of various subjects, departments, areas of knowledge?
- 4. Impact on learning.
- 5. Impact on the promotion of Civil Engineering studies.
- 6. Impact on society.
- 7. Collaboration with industry.
- 8. Use of innovative methods in the teaching project.
- 9. Development of teaching material associated with the project.
- 10. Funding / support received by the project.
- 11. Years the project has been running and number of involved students.
- 12. Quantitative appraisal of the impact.

PRIZE

A diploma for every member of the team if applicable and a total amount of 2000 euros. If a team is awarded, the prize is delivered to the person who is responsible for the teaching team. Special mentions may be made to other nominees, if the jury deems it appropriate, with no economical implication.

The corresponding tax will be deducted from the amount of the prize.

The person or leader of the persons awarded will be asked to deliver a lecture in English in the frame of one event organized by EUCEET Association as a requirement to receive the prize.

JURY COMPOSITION

Members of the Jury will be selected by the board of EUCEET Association in due time. Members of the Jury cannot have family relationship with candidates, neither past or present cooperation (professional, scientific research, teaching) with them. They will be selected among internationally well reputed experts of educational problems with special attention to the field of Civil Engineering. General Secretary of EUCEET will act as secretary of the jury and will have voice but no vote.

JURY VERDICT

The jury decides to award one single prize and if deemed necessary to make honourable special mentions. Candidates that have not been awarded can be reconsidered for future editions of the award. If the jury considers that there have been external collaborations that have made them possible, it can mention it, if it deems it appropriate. In issuing the verdict, the jury may take into account any advice it deems appropriate and may request such reports as it deems appropriate. The Prize may be declared void. Interpretation of the rules, if required or not specified, will correspond to the General Secretary of the association The jury's verdict will be made public during the AECEF/EUCEET joint Conference in October 2023 in Pisa and will be final.

EUCEET Association on LinkedIn

As decided at the 15th GA in Tirana, starting with December 2022 EUCEET Association has the LinkedIn page:

https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-civil-engineering-education-and-training/



FROM MEMBERS

École des Ponts ParisTech, France



Professor Thibaut Skrzypek, member of Administrative Council of EUCEET Association sent the following news of interest for members of EUCEET Association:

ENPC MOVES UP 19 PLACES IN THE GLOBAL EMPLOYABILITY UNIVERSITY RANKING 2022/2023

For the 12th consecutive year, Emerging has published its international university employability ranking. ENPC is ranked 156th, up 19 places from the previous edition. It ranks 14th in France.

► View the ranking

The Global Employability University Ranking and Survey (GEURS) ranks the top 250 universities in the world in terms of employability. It is the only ranking based exclusively on the views of international employers.

Emerging is an HR consultancy specializing in the relationship between the corporate world and higher education institutions, with the goal of optimizing the recruitment and integration of young talent.



©employability-ranking

<u>CERMICS</u> (ENPC APPLIED MATHS LAB) - WHEN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REGULATES HIGHWAY TRAFFIC: A (VERY) LARGE-SCALE EXPERIMENT

The world's largest experiment with autonomous vehicles on highways in heavy traffic took place from November 14 to 18, 2022, in Nashville, Tennessee. This large-scale project was conducted by the CIRCLES consortium, which includes a team of about 100 people over the past three years. Among them are a

researcher and a doctoral student from CERMICS, the applied mathematics laboratory of École des Ponts ParisTech. The goal of this project is to enable driving to reduce rush-hour traffic jams and energy consumption.

Since 2020, Amaury Hayat, a researcher at CERMICS, has been a member of the project's leadership team. He co-designed two of the four algorithms used in the cars. Nathan Lichtlé, who is pursuing a joint thesis with École des Ponts ParisTech/University of Berkeley, is also working on the subject and has co-designed the other two algorithms (including the main one). These algorithms use state-of-the-art methods in control theory and artificial intelligence (reinforcement learning) to understand traffic behavior and act accordingly.

One hundred of these vehicles were deployed along a 4-mile stretch of I-24 between 5:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in a typical traffic flow. Each of these vehicles included cruise control technology equipped with this artificial intelligence. The chosen stretch of highway, the only one of its kind, is equipped with 300 digital sensors that are mounted on poles to collect the extensive traffic data.

In a test carried out 5 years ago on 20 cars and on a closed track, it was shown that a single car equipped with a control algorithm modified the driving behavior of all the other cars attenuating the dynamics of stops and restarts that often lead to traffic jams without any obvious cause. In addition, the researchers significant compared traditional measured fuel savings to driving in traffic The experiment was conducted by the CIRCLES Consortium (Vanderbilt University, Temple University, Rutgers University-Camden, University of Berkeley, École des Ponts ParisTech in coordination with Nissan North America, Toyota, General Motors, the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Energy).

Initial results of the experiment will be published soon.



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MICHEL VIRLOGEUX, PROFESSOR AT ENPC RECEIVES AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM WUST UNIVERSITY

On Tuesday, November 15, an honorary doctorate will be awarded to Dr. Michel Virlogeux, professor at École des Ponts ParisTech, by the Wrocław University of Science and Technology (WUST). He will deliver a speech on this occasion.

The ceremony, which will be broadcast live from 12:00, will also provide an opportunity to present the University's scientific prizes and scholarships, as well as the "Lion of Wrocław University of Science and Technology" to WUST employees. The name of the second winner of the European Science Prize Stanisław Lem will also be announced.

WUST has been a partner of ENPC through a double-degree agreement since 2010.



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CONFERENCE DAY "BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION IN TRANSITION"

December 05, 2022 09:30 - 17:45

On the occasion of the publication of the second issue of the journal Transitions. Les nouvelles Annales des ponts et chaussées, a free conference day is organized on Monday, December 5, 2022, at the École des Ponts ParisTech (Champs-sur-Marne, Noisy-Champs station on the RER A), from 9:30 am to 5:45 pm.

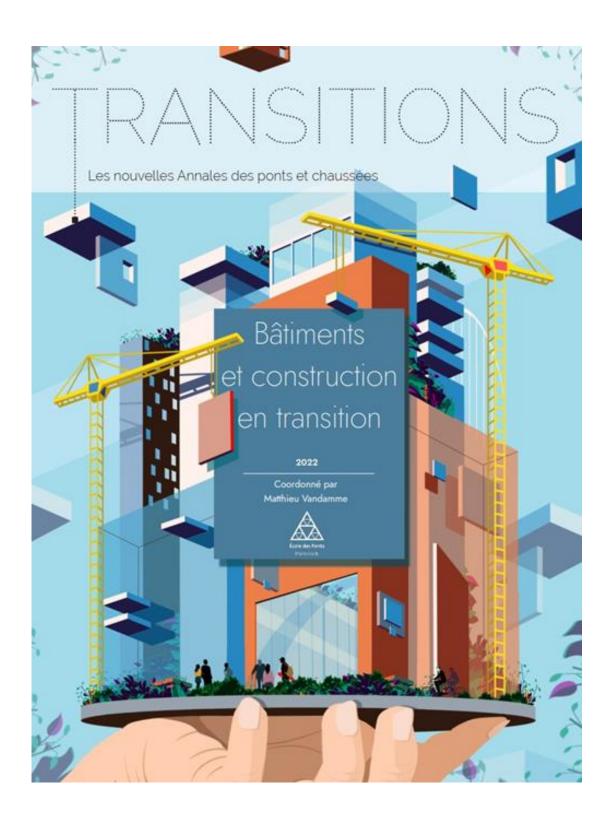
This new issue of the journal brings together contributions from more than thirty authors on the issue of transition applied to the construction and building sector.

During this day of conferences, many of them will come back in detail on their contribution and will address the four structuring axes of the book:

- Towards a systemic quantification
- Towards an optimized and integrated design
- Towards more virtuous materials and processes
- Towards resilience, reuse and the circular economy.

▶ Discover the detailed program and register.

Registration is free but required by November 20, 2022. Lunch is at the expense of the participants. This day is co-organized by École des Ponts ParisTech and the French Civil Engineering Association.



HOPE, FEAR & TECH: HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVES ON TECHNOLOGY

December 06, 2022 18:00 - 20:00

A round table organized by the Department of Languages and Cultures of École des Ponts ParisTech and the Paris Institute for Critical Thinking (PICT).

Cauchy Amphitheatre, École des Ponts ParisTech Technological progress is both a source of hope and fear. From artificial intelligence to global megacities, the challenges presented to us by our own creations are growing, both on a technical and human level. How do technological developments affect our identities as individuals and groups? How can we make room for the expression of human values in a virtual environment? And how can art help us confront and articulate our technological hopes and fears? The round table will address these questions from a humanities perspective.



PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS

The event begun with a presentation by each speaker, followed by a roundtable discussion during which the speakers answered questions from the audience. Presentations were in English; questions in French were accepted from the audience and summaries in French of all presentations will be made available to the public.

- Philosopher Viktoras Bachmetjevas I addressed the distinction between the virtual and the real (PICT, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas)

- Philosopher Luca Possati explored the relationship between artificial intelligence and human identity (PICT, TU Delft)

- Award-winning director Nada Serhan talked about human-IA interactions in science fiction films (PICT, author and director)
- Interdisciplinary theorist Natasha Lushetich presented contemporary forms of (post)human agency generated by technological advances (PICT, University of Dundee)

Moderator:

- David Selim Sayers (PICT, École des Ponts ParisTech)

FINANCE AND WATER POLITICS IN BRAZIL

December 09, 2022 14:00 - 16:00

The session of the Laboratoire Techniques Territoires et Sociétés (<u>LATTS</u>) seminar was held on December 9 at 2:00 pm, in hybrid mode.

Isadora Cruxên, professor and researcher at Queen Mary University of London, presented a paper entitled: Finance and Water Politics in Brazil.

Join the seminar

Meeting ID: 884 7755 7733 - Password: BFmKZML6



What are the political implications of financial investment for the provision of essential infrastructure services such as water and sanitation? Existing urban political economy scholarship has revealed an important role for states and other intermediaries in enabling financial deepening within cities. However, these analyses tend to position financial investors as relatively removed from the everyday politics of making financialization happen.

This study spotlights the political agency of investors. Through comparative analysis of private water companies in Brazil, I explore what kind of political and regulatory relations financial investors such as private equity groups engender-and what political tensions emerge-after they acquire ownership stakes in urban service providers. My analysis reveals that securing financial returns may require political (re-)engineering. I show that while private water companies were quite engaged in local politics under their original owners (construction business groups), under finance they sought to "escape" it by curbing ties to public officials, reducing the autonomy of local subsidiaries, and mobilizing for the standardization of regulatory activities at the national level. I argue these centralizing efforts constituted forms of centripetal politics meant to enhance asset monitoring, increase regulatory legibility, and ensure stable returns within a fragmented political environment. These findings problematize the conventional analytical focus on how financial investors capitalize on local forms of entrepreneurial or speculative politics. They also reveal the need to treat institutional environments not simply as "filters" for financial investment but as objects of political contestation by finance. This opens a window for illuminating the blurry boundaries between finance and politics, and, crucially, for politicizing finance.

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH), Lithuania



14th International Conference "*Modern Building Materials, Structures and Techniques*" 5-6 October, 2023
Vilnius, Lithuania

This conference organised by the Faculty of Civil Engineering of VILNIUS TECH provides an opportunity for scientists, engineers, managers and professionals from around the world to share the latest achievements in field of civil engineering. Such a conference is an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues, exchange knowledge and extend the list of new contacts.

Traditional International Conference Modern Building Materials, Structures and Techniques has been organized since 1991 when the very first forum organized by the Faculty of Civil Engineering of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University was held in Vilnius, Lithuania. After long pandemic period since last Conference organized in 2019, it will be an opportunity for scientists, engineers, managers and

professionals from around the world to meet each other again on 5–6 of October 2023, to share the knowledge and extend list of contacts.

The conference covers topics such as modern building materials and their production technologies; investigation and design of reinforced concrete, steel, glass, timber and composite structures; innovative calculation techniques for bridges; geotechnics; new building technologies and management; building information modelling. The contributions, which were selected through a rigorous international peerreview process, share exciting ideas that will spur novel research directions and foster new multidisciplinary collaborations.

Dedicated to the 700th anniversary of VILNIUS

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (vilniustech.lt)

Bucharest, Romania

Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania



8th Conference of the Sustainable Solutions for Energy and Environment *EENVIRO 2022*16-20 October, 2022

Under the main theme "Sustainable Solutions for Energy and Environment", the conference took place on 16-20 October 2022, hosted by CAMBI Research Centre from Technical University of Civil Engineering and covered the diverse disciplines of Energy and Environment from the present to the future.











The 8th Conference of the Sustainable Solutions for Energy and Environment, EENVIRO 2022

16th – 20th of October

Bucharest

The EENVIRO 2022 Conference was organized together with the partner universities from the EU-CONEXUS Consortium and included workshops and oral presentations addressing sustainable and smart

urban development topics. EENVIRO 2022 provided all participants a firm platform for a meaningful academic, industrial, social and cultural experience.

With fascinating ancient traditions and ultramodern lifestyle, the city of Bucharest was the centre of many unforgettable moments for participants. Bucharest is the 6th European town in population terms and the largest city of Romania, a very alive cultural, industrial and financial centre, offering historical or modern conference venues, very cosy hotels, appealing restaurants, robust infrastructure and a lot of quite unique places like traditional museums, recreational green areas and genuine "shopping arcades".

EU-CONEXUS, The European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability, is a unique European transnational higher education and research institution that is able to cover the smart urban sustainable coastal development from a global point of view, by cross disciplinary based approaches, vocational training, innovative and professionalizing educational and research methods and service provision.

EU-CONEXUS has 9 partners and associated partners, universities from different European countries. SmUCS is a unique thematic focus that concentrates all university missions on finding solutions to global societal challenges faced by urbanised and semi-urbanised coastal areas. With this focused expertise, EU-CONEXUS also contributes to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). By leveraging the expertise of its 6800 staff and on its specialization on SmUCS on a global scale following holistic and interdisciplinary approaches, EU-CONEXUS creates a concentrated scientific potential on SmUCS that allows the Alliance to become a world-class player.

For more information, please visit: https://www.eenviro.ro/home/

Ural Federal University (UrFU), Russia



Ural Federal University (UrFU), Russia

Professor Vladimir Alekhin (Head of Department of UrFU Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture(ICEA), member of Administrative Council of EUCEET Association from 2014 to 2022) sent the following news of interest for members of EUCEET Association:

IX International Forum 100+ TechnoBuild (October 18-21 at IEC Ekaterinburg-EXPO)

Forum 100+TechnoBuild – is an International Congress and professionally oriented Exhibition, dedicated to design, construction and management of unique building and structures, energy efficiency and security, green building, innovative materials and technologies, BIM-design, planning and development of transportation infrastructure, comfortable urban environment.

The formation of communities with growing needs and conflicts has fundamentally changed all paradigms of the development of fundamental, applied and engineering sciences related to social and technological progress, including the theory and practice o frisk analysis and sustainable corporate growth. Some questions on this broad issue were discussed at the section "Integrated safety and sustainable development of civil engineering critical infrastructures and territories".

Moderator Professor Vladimir Alekhin (Member of the Forum's Organizing Committee, Head of Department of UrFU, director of TECHCON Ltd), speakers Professor Sviatoslav Timashev and Dr Anna Bushinskaya (Ural Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAN) and UrFU), Dr Oleg Ushakov (General director of UralConceptProekt Ltd), Professor Liliya Pastukhova (Head of Department of UrFU), Hussein Abdullah (Structural engineer of TECHCON Ltd, PhD student of UrFU) and other participants presented some implemented projects on the topic under discussion. Among them:

- Resilience and safety of smart civil engineering infrastructures and territories: new paradigms of security;
- Assessment of the dynamic impact of the metro operation on construction sites;
- Digital simulation of wind loads as a necessary measure to increase the safety of buildings and structures;
- The use of modern software in the design and reconstruction of the foundations of turbine aggregates;
- The use of Bayesian networks to assess the risk of accidents in the railway transport of dangerous goods on the territory of the municipality, and others.

100+ AWARDS 2022

100+ AWARDS is the Russian "Oscar" of the engineering and architecture world.

Awards were given to projects that were completed in Russia and which also make significant contributions to the development of construction by means of implementing cutting-edge solutions in engineering, design and architecture. This was the second time the awards were held. 196 Russian companies and individuals applied for participation, and only 74 of them were shortlisted. Members of the Jury (48 members) and Expert Council (27 members) consisted of world-class experts in architecture and construction. Among them was Professor Vladimir Alekhin (Head of Department of UrFU, a member of Administrative Council of EUCEET, 2014-2022), served on the Expert Council and the Jury. 15 companies in 8 nominations received winning statuettes and diplomas.

The awards ceremony was held as part of IX International Forum and Expo 100+ TechnoBuild.

Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing of Russian Federation Nikita Stasishin, Governor of Sverdlovsk Region Evgeny Kuyvashev and Head of Ekaterinburg Alexey Orlov participated in awarding ceremony.

















Photos from IX International Forum 100+ TechnoBuild (October 18-21 at IEC Ekaterinburg-EXPO) (https://forum-100.ru/novosti/fotootchet-100-technobuild-2022/)





Photos from 100+ AWARDS 2022 (https://forum-100.ru/novosti/fotootchet-100-technobuild-2022/)

FROM PARTNERS

European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)

75th ECCE General Meeting 3-5 November 2022 Vienna, Austria



The 75th ECCE General Meeting was held in hybrid mode between 3 and 5 November 2022, in Vienna, Austria, hosted by the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants.



The programme consisted of:

- An update on the ECCE works and affairs
- The progress that has been made so far in the preparation of the ECCE Strategic Plan for the next few years
- An accompanying persons' programme on Friday 4th November
- A conference dinner at a traditional "Heurigen" on Friday 4th November
- A cultural tour on Saturday 5th November

For more information: http://www.ecceengineers.eu/index.php?id=36

Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

ESN & ESU launch a survey to analyse the challenges of finding accommodation of international students abroad



Monday, 7 November, 2022

The housing situation of international students is a long-standing challenge in the implementation of Erasmus+ mobilities. The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education, a quality framework for Erasmus+ mobilities in Higher Education that all Higher Education Institutions need to acquire in order to participate in Erasmus+, established that HEIs should "Provide active support to incoming mobile participants throughout the process of finding accommodation", elaborating on the exact responsibilities for sending and receiving institutions. The involvement of Higher Education Institutions with the issues varies greatly, with remarkable practices supporting students to access housing and cases in which not much support is provided. Building on good practices can help to improve the situation in places where the challenges are more acute.



At the moment, the raise of inflation and the cost of living crisis have contributed to worsening the situation with several reports in the media coming from countries such as Belgium or Italy. ESN national and local associations and student unions have been monitoring the situation closely, working to support the students and trying to find solutions.

The latest data from the ESN Survey 2021 shows that **more than 15% of respondents reported having a lot of issues with their accommodation** and that the degree of dissatisfaction with the provision of accommodation was among the highest of all the services provided by Universities. Issues with accommodation are closely interlinked with potential issues with **anxiety and stress**.

Czech National Agency for International Education and Research

International Conference on Strategy and Policy in Higher Education 21-22 November 2022
Prague, Czech Republic

<u>The Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS)</u> organized CZEDUCON 2022: International Conference on Strategy and Policy in Higher Education.

The conference took place on 21-22 November 2022 (lunch to lunch) in O2 Universum, Prague, Czech Republic.



The event in the field of higher education under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, CZEDUCON involved experts from leading universities, the European Commission and associations across the EU.

CZEDUCON 2022 main thematic areas were:

- Strengthening European values
- Enhancing European dimension
- Building future-proof skills
- Managing digital and green transition

The conference programme was addressing leaders of universities and representatives of national and European institutions focused on policy and strategy in the field of international higher education.

For more information: https://czeducon.cz/

European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI)

SEFI Deans Convention 2023 - Leadership for digitalization in Higher Engineering Education 24-26 May, 2023

University of Twente Campus, the Netherlands

Digital education has been a fast-growing trend even before the pandemic and has gained more traction since. A large majority of higher education institutions have substantially changed by adapting to emergency remote education. Now that societies and educational institutions are adapting to 'a new normal', digital education is here to stay. At the same time, engineering itself is subject to digital transformation. Apart from the need to respond to and anticipate further the digital transformation in and of societies in general, universities see opportunities related to e.g., scaling-up, flexibilization, personalization, New Campus Role, and data-informed innovation. At the same time, (cyber) security threats, a lack of sense of community among students and teachers, and access need to be addressed to be able to fully benefit all target groups.



In the 2023 European Convention for Engineering Deans, we will go into leadership focused on empowering Higher Engineering students to take full charge of their own learning in a digitally transforming world. We are looking forward to meeting you on our beautiful campus to discuss these exciting topics with you!

The general objective of the Conventions is to bring together Deans* from all over Europe to meet and discuss in-depth common topics, share experiences, identify solutions for problems and build up a network with peers in different European countries.

For more information: https://www.sefi.be/2022/06/16/sefi-deans-convention-2023-save-the-date/

Academic Cooperation Association



What's new in Brussels? Recent developments in European policies and programmes



After two years of online seminars, ACA's annual flagship seminar What's new in Brussels? Recent developments in European policies and programmes is back to its in-person format and will be held in Brussels once again at the start of 2023.

Mark your calendars for 2 & 3 February 2023! More information on the programme and registration coming soon.

Information from: https://aca-secretariat.be/

Digitalisation in International Higher Education: Forward Looking Perspectives

The Digitalisation in International Higher Education: Forward Looking Perspectives international conference was co-organised by Dům zahraniční spolupráce, Czech National Agency for International Education and Research (DZS) and the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA).

This event will be held in Prague in spring 2023 - exact date to be confirmed soon!

This conference will enable the sharing of experience and best practice on the digitalisation of international higher education, and will bring together relevant stakeholders from higher education, including experts and policymakers, internationalisation practitioners and academics in the higher education field to reflect on the digital transformation in the present and the future of universities.

Drawing on experiences with digital and blended learning, participants will explore the challenges but also the potential of recent innovations in terms of advancing education and international cooperation, while they will also get the chance to meet counterparts from all over Europe in the framework of an exchange of practices, teamwork, collaboration and peer learning.



Co-organised by:





Stay tuned for more information on the exact date, registration and the programme!

FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

News from Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)



Fifth European Education Summit: 'Bright Young Minds'

Publication date 16 November 2022

Author European Education and Culture Executive Agency

The 5th European Education Summit puts youth and education centre stage, giving our bright young minds the opportunity to contribute to shaping the future direction of education and training in Europe.

Join this online event on 1 December at 9:30 am!



The 5th European Education Summit puts youth and education centre stage, giving our bright young minds the opportunity to contribute to shaping the future direction of education and training in Europe.

Young people are the future of Europe and will play a central role in the twin green and digital transitions of our societies.

To do so, it is essential that European education and training systems can adapt to allow all young people to develop the skills and competencies they need to thrive and innovate.

This year's Summit will address questions such as:

- how can we improve the education sector to the benefit of all?
- how can education and training be made more inclusive to allow everyone to reach their full potential?
- how can investment be better targeted to ensure quality and inclusive education?
- what role can education play in making the European Green Deal a reality?
- how can we ensure that young people are equipped with the green and digital skills needed to thrive and innovate in a sustainable way?
- how can we future-proof education systems to make them more resilient?

Youth representatives and members of the education and training community from across the European Union (EU) will discuss ideas and best practices in answer to these questions and more.

Together, they will bring new perspectives, innovative solutions and creative approaches to help make the European Education Area a reality.

Follow the Summit event page for more information about the programme and speakers.

More information: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/fifth-european-education-summit-bright-young-minds-2022-11-16 en

2022 #BeActive Awards: finalists announced!

Publication date: 8 November 2022

Author European Education and Culture Executive Agency

The 2022 #BeActive Awards aim to reward and give visibility to projects and initiatives that have successfully promoted sport and physical activity across Europe.



The 2022 #BeActive Awards aim to reward and give visibility to projects and initiatives that have successfully promoted sport and physical activity across Europe. The competition contributes to the promotion of the European Week of Sport, while showcasing best practice projects, and introducing inspiring individuals to a pan-European audience. It also contributes to the HealthyLifeStyle4All initiative and to the promotion of sustainable and green sport.

Here are the 12 finalists competing for the prize

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth will award the winners for each of the four prize categories:

- #BeActive Education Award

- Krokiet & Lama Academy, Poland
- Croatian School Sport Federation, Croatia
- Mascalzone Latino Sailing Team ASD, Italy

- #BeActive Workplace Award

- Adevinta Classified Media Hungary Kft., Hungary
- AZUR SPORT SANTE, France
- EWII, Denmark

- #BeActive Local Hero Award

- Mate Kristo, Croatia
- Elias Mastoras, Greece
- Piotr Mariusz Borowski, Poland

- #BeActive Across Generations Award

- ASP Asilo Savoia, Italy
- SUOMEN LATU RY, Finland
- UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI, Slovenia

More information: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/2022-beactive-awards-finalists-announced-2022-11-08 en

Commissioner Mariya Gabriel has announced the winners of the #BeActive Awards 2022 at the annual gala in Brussels on 28 November 2022.



Each finalist received €2 500, while each of the four first-place winners received €10 000.

Congratulations to all the winners and finalists of the 2022 #BeActive Awards!

More information: https://sport.ec.europa.eu/news/beactive-awards-2022-and-the-winners-are

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people

Policy responses in European countries

Published: 2022-10-13

Corporate author(s): <u>European Education and Culture Executive Agency</u> (<u>European Commission</u>)



The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people has been significant. Extended periods of lockdowns have disrupted their lives in many respects. The physical closure of schools, the suspension of in-person social and recreational activities and the isolation imposed by confinements have taken a toll on young people's mental health.

The report analyses the policy response given by public authorities in European countries to this emergency. It identifies the main factors affecting young people's mental health during the pandemic and develops a detailed overview of the policies, initiatives and programmes established to address them. It also offers examples of good practices and, on this basis, suggests future directions in policy-making. The report covers the period from March 2020 to March 2022 and includes 32 countries. Information was provided by the National Correspondents of the Youth Wiki, Europe's online encyclopaedia of national youth policies. The main objective of the Youth Wiki is to support evidence-based European cooperation in the field of Youth. It does so by providing information on national policies in support of young people — in a user-friendly and continuously updated way. The Youth Wiki is coordinated by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency and accessible at.

More information: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/index en

ARTICLES from journals, newspaper, magazines

SDGs: A framework for socially responsible universities

Author: Kalinga Seneviratne

21 November 2022

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework provides an opportunity for universities to "collaborate across differences" and represents a new "common language" for social responsibility, according to speakers at the University Social Responsibility (USR) Summit, held in a hybrid format from 16 to 18 November under the theme, "Education and Action for a Sustainable Future".

In a speech titled "How universities can – and must – change to meet the demands of a world in flux", Joy Johnson, president and vice-chancellor of Simon Fraser University in Canada, argued that universities have to open up to different ideas and ways of learning, and students need to be exposed to a multiplicity of perspectives.

Lamenting that universities compete against each other on rankings and for prestige, Johnson said: "Our industry needs to collaborate; we can learn from each other." She argued that the SDGs framework provides an opportunity to "collaborate across differences".

Replying to a question on globalisation, Johnson said that "globalisation is trying to wipe out differences (with Starbucks and McDonald's in every corner)" and is creating a society in which "people are not listening [to each other]" and are "stuck [in] their echo chambers".

The three-day USR virtual conference hosted by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University drew more than 120 speakers and over 640 online participants from 76 countries. *University World News* is the media partner.

Addressing challenges facing the world

The USR Network consists of 20 member institutions from across many regions committed to the notion that universities have an obligation to work together to find solutions to address the economic, social and environmental challenges facing the world today.

Dr Andrea Bandelli, head of international relations at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, who chaired a number of panels, said the USR Network was an ideal platform on which to share experiences and develop new approaches.

"Universities are pillars of our societies. What they do, the way they educate new generations, the research that is done and their impact on society has profound consequences," he told *University World News* in an interview. "Acknowledging and understanding the consequences of these actions is the social responsibility of universities."

When asked about the differences between corporate social responsibility and university social responsibility,

Bandelli argued that universities are highly networked institutions, experiencing "deep" interactions with the public and private sectors, as well as with civil society.

And they are at the service of society. "They respond to societal developments and therefore their social responsibility can be understood as something that is constantly negotiated with society," he said, "unlike corporate social responsibility which is very often an initiative or a set of initiatives directed by and driven by the corporation."

Much of the discussion of the three-day summit was centred on how university social responsibility could relate to the achievement of the SDGs. There was a diversity of ideas and examples presented during the sessions.

SDGs are new 'common language'

Dr Fernando Palacio, who chaired a couple of the sessions, argued that the SDGs have come to represent a new "common language" that allows many different stakeholders to work towards shared and measurable goals.

"Within this context, universities have a central role as social nodes that can bring a very diverse pool of resources together to address the different SDGs," he told *University World News*, adding: "Universities have a unique kind of 'soft power' that can result in important synergies at the time of finding and developing new solutions to the challenges presented by each of the goals in the agenda."

Palacio argued that universities need to change their model of education, and he believed many are doing so in the way they address the SDGs. "Not only [changes] to their curricula and what they teach in their classrooms, but also in the research they carry out and, more importantly, to their own procedures and ways of engaging with society," he said.

One example of such change was provided by Thandiwe Matyobeni from Rhodes University in South Africa, where academics have introduced "digital innovatives" to develop cohesive communities. This involves the university teaching digital skills to community members who in turn use their knowledge for digital story telling.

"We provide access to platforms and motivate them to get involved," she explained. "Approaches coming from the grassroots could be novel [and] this knowledge from local communities goes to the global platforms on SDGs and vice versa."

People-centred programmes

Details about another local initiative were presented by Michelle Angeli Lapiz from the Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development. She explained how a "Blue Carbon Initiative" was introduced to empower coastal communities to counter climate change through people-centred programmes and policies.

Marine research had been conducted in collaboration with Ateneo de Manila University on the impact on local communities of the loss of mangroves and new policies were proposed aimed at empowering local communities, she said.

When *University World News* asked how this research had contributed to policy changes at a local level, Lapiz replied: "Local development policies are very political. We can't be sure what we recommend will be implemented, [but] we need to bring them into action."

As producers of knowledge, universities have an inherent responsibility to give back to society through their research, argued Palacio.

That process needed to hinge on "engaging communities in the research design, not only as the 'object' of the research, but also as part of the design around how data is collected, used and shared. It involved engaging with communities through partnerships that gave the communities a voice in deciding what is to be researched and what is to be done with that research output."

Reflecting on the transformational changes needed at universities to address sustainable development issues, Ivar Maas from Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam argued in his presentation that radical changes may be needed to the fundamental structure of institutions.

This needs to take into account how "our efforts affect policy decisions [of governing authorities]", he said, adding that "impact on society is more than just education [teaching] and research".

"This change has to come from the whole institution," Maas argued in an email interview with *University World News*.

SDGs as a framework

"This can be done in several ways. At VU [Amsterdam] we use the SDGs as an important framework but there are different ways [of doing this] – for example, looking at research output and the impact it has."

But he warns, "the difficulty with transformative change is that it is hard to quantify – especially the individual behavioural change".

Educating for global citizenship was an issue that came up during a number of presentations.

Percy Hotim Hung of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University presented the findings of a pilot study focused on engaging the SDGs in global citizenship education and said it was important for institutions to enable their students to see the world through the eyes of others.

"Graduates should have the capacity to understand different cultures and social development needs in the local, national and global contexts," argued Hung. "Global citizenry entails [understanding] social responsibility, [gaining] global competence, and [familiarity with] the SDGs," Hung said.

"A global network like the USR Network is proof that we work in deep collaboration with institutions from all continents, and there is no single model that claims to be dominant," argued Bandelli.

"Global citizenship shouldn't be understood as a model of citizenship, but rather as a diverse, respectful and collaborative approach to being part of society, wherever that may be, and connected with the broader world."

Education for global food justice

Justin Joseph Badion, from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines, drew a practical pathway towards global citizenship education when he spoke about global food justice and education for creating regenerative food systems.

"Food is a justice issue," he argued. "People in the Global South remain hungry because of [injustices] in supply chains and a lack of access to food is an issue of justice."

Badion said the food crisis needed a radical systemic solution, and "not just solutions but regenerative systems". Using theological arguments, he argued the need to be "part of nature, not sustaining it, but regenerating it".

He presented a model curriculum focused on the global food crisis, drawing from various people's perspectives.

The curriculum includes an introduction to all ingredients involved in the food system, followed by units on the story of food; the local and global food crisis; animal welfare; climate and gender issues; and ending with 'Alimentary Theology' which promotes the idea of regenerating food production to respond to the needs of the marginalised and disadvantaged.

At the end students are required to produce plans for food justice which include policies and production models.

Asked by *University World News* how universities can pursue a social responsibility agenda in the context of commercialised internationalisation, Bandelli acknowledged that there "have been trends and movements in the commercial direction".

However, new ranking formats that focus on impact, diversity and community outreach, to name a few, were beginning to show a different picture of the academic system, which complements the traditional one.

"I think the current challenge is to create large ecosystems for education, research and impact based on deep collaboration, instead of chasing students at a global level."

Information from: https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20221121150134618

Student poverty: One-third were at risk before energy crisis

Author: Michael Gardner

25 November 2022

Recently released official statistics suggest that well over one-third of German students were already at risk of poverty last year, prompting the German National Association for Student Affairs or *Deutsches Studentenwerk* (DSW) to call on government for more financial support for students struggling with cost-of-living increases.

According to the Federal Statistical Office of Germany (Destasis), 37.9% of students in Germany were poverty-vulnerable in 2021.

The Destasis figures are part of the EU-SILC (European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) data compiled last year. EU-SILC defines an individual threatened by poverty as having less than 60% of the overall population's average income at his or her disposal, with the threshold for people living on their own lying at a net €1,251 (US\$1,300) a month in Germany.

Students living alone or with other students

Among students living on their own or exclusively together with other students, the share of poverty-vulnerable students was at 71.1%, considerably higher than the overall share of poverty-vulnerable students in the total student population. Last year, the total share of the German population threatened by poverty was at 15.8%.

Destasis also states that 38.5% of students were last year already living in households unable to pay unexpected major expenses out of their own financial resources – ahead of the current energy crisis. This applied to 55.8% of the students living on their own or sharing flats with other students. The figure for the overall population was 31.9%.

Destasis points out that housing costs, accounting for 31.6% of overall expenditure on average, left many students with little financial scope for other areas in 2021. Again, this share was significantly higher than average housing costs for the population at large, which was at 23.3%.

And on average, students on their own or sharing flats with other students had to spend 51.1% of their income on housing.

A 'dramatic' crisis

"Students are facing a dramatic social crisis this winter," says DSW General Secretary Matthias Anbuhl. "Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic already on their last legs financially and mentally, they now face a situation in which they often do not know how they will afford food, gas and electricity, given the skyrocketing prices."

According to Anbuhl, international students are especially hard hit by the crisis, with an average €140 less at their disposal than their fellow German students.

Anbuhl has called for more government support for students to cope with the crisis, including direct payments to cover heating costs.

But he also reiterated the DSW's demand that BAföG (*Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz* government funding) grants and loans based on the federal grant law be raised and automatically adjusted to price levels as inflation bites. BAföG levels were at €579 on average last winter semester and were paid out to 468,000 students.

Furthermore, the DSW demands that state governments provide more funding for the student services it runs,

so that rising energy and food costs at halls of residence and student restaurants need not be passed on to students.

Information from: https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20221125074055798

Academics see research potential of 'loss and damage' fund

Author: Wagdy Sawahel
24 November 2022

Individual academics around the world have welcomed the agreement made at the United Nations' COP27 climate summit to establish a 'loss and damage' fund to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and have called for part of the funds to be earmarked for universities and research centres geared towards climate change research.

"I welcome the decision to establish a loss and damage fund and to operationalise it in the coming period," said Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary-general in a 20 November video message issued at the 27th session of the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP27) which took place recently in the Egyptian Red Sea city of Sharm El-Sheikh.

Guterres said the fund was "an important step towards justice" for poor countries that have done little to cause the climate crisis, but are suffering its worst impacts.

"The issue of loss and damage was, for the first time, central to the agenda at COP and progress on its financing is a pivotal part of COP27's success," according to a COP27 **press release** issued on 20 November.

It is likely to take at least a year, until the next climate conference of the parties in the United Arab Emirates in November 2023, to sort through some of the details of how the fund will work, when it will become operational and how it will be funded.

For academics, the creation of the fund acknowledges, in part, the strength of the evidence about climate change produced by academics in developing countries.

Universities' key role in 'loss and damage' talks

<u>Victor Ongoma</u>, a professor of climate change adaptation at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Morocco, told *University World News* the approved fund is "an acknowledgement of the existing evidence of climate change and the associated loss and damage that has been tabled by many higher education institutions as well as governments and associations in developing countries.

"Higher education institutions and universities, along with science centres, have been involved in research that provides evidence of climate change, and climate change attributions which are key in shaping climate 'loss and damage' discussions prioritised during COP27," Ongoma said.

<u>Professor Walter Leal</u>, head of the Research and Transfer Centre, Sustainability and Climate Change Management at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany, also welcomed news of the fund but said it was "urgent" that the allocation and disbursement of the loss and damage funds is quickly made.

"As research is fundamental in identifying areas of action, it would be a good idea to earmark some funding to be made available to universities in developing countries, so that they may be able to fund some projects," Leal told *University World News*.

For example, research efforts to tackle the impacts of climate change on agriculture must be increased, since enhancing food production is related to poverty alleviation.

"At the moment, there are some sources of research funds but the application procedures are so complex that some universities are unable to access them," Leal said.

"Some of the loss and damage funds should also be targeted to adjust, repair or otherwise provide a research infrastructure as well as fostering the training of students, especially at the masters and doctoral levels.

"It is a wise use of financial resources to direct some of the loss and damage fund to establish an observatory of climate change loss and damage in the Global South in order to monitor climate change-related damages taking place in developing countries.

"The observatory will also carry out research on ways to protect communities from climate vulnerability and provide evidence-based consultancy services to decision-makers in developing countries," said Leal.

Biosaline agriculture research

UNESCO Science Prize laureate <u>Professor Atta-ur-Rahman</u>, agreed. He told *University World News* the loss and damage fund should be used to strengthen research capabilities in universities in developing countries to counter the effects of climate change on frequency, intensity and geographical distribution of extreme weather events such as storms, floods and heat waves, and slow-onset events such as sea-level rise, ocean acidification, loss of biodiversity and desertification.

Atta-ur-Rahman, who is the former coordinator-general of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the 57 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and former federal minister of science and technology in Pakistan, suggested the establishment of centres of excellence in biosaline agriculture to conduct research on new varieties of edible crops that are stress- and salt-tolerant and can be grown in deserts and in coastal areas using sea water.

"There is no shortage of water on our planet, but it is mostly sea water. Such research will help humanity to prepare itself against a huge human disaster involving mass famines caused by accelerated desertification and climate change.

"The funds should also be used to fund research on applications of gene editing technologies in order to be able to develop new varieties of wheat, rice and other edible crops with minimum use of water and under extreme temperatures," Atta-ur-Rahman said.

"In order to compete and survive, developing nations need to transition to strong technology-driven knowledge economies.

"The fund should, therefore, be used to promote education, science, technology and innovation through

scholarships, the creation of research facilities in new and emerging fields of science and technology such as artificial intelligence, genomics, nanobiotechnology, and so on, and for the establishment of linkages with industry and agriculture," Atta-ur-Rahman said.

Gender equality and climate

<u>Dr Birgit Schreiber</u>, vice-president of the International Association of Student Affairs and Services, told *University World News* that part of the approved fund could usefully be directed towards establishing a unit for gender equality and climate change at universities in developing countries.

Such a unit could focus on conducting research and studies on the impact of climate change on women as well as monitoring best practices and identifying transformative innovations and practical tools to protect from climate change impact, Schreiber said.

"The brunt of any crisis, as we saw in COVID-19, is carried disproportionately by women, especially in developing countries ... So too, then, do the environmental crises impact women, children and other vulnerable groups disproportionately.

"We must do all we can to avoid their rights being further driven back into the previous century," said Schreiber, who is also a member of the Africa Centre for Transregional Research at the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg in Germany.

Building research capacity

<u>Salwa Thabet Mekky</u>, professor of public administration and the director of international affairs at the Future University in Egypt, told *University World News* she believed the approved fund should be used to support institutional reforms of higher education institutions in developing countries, especially in vulnerable communities, in order to address the multifaceted causes and consequences of climate change and to contribute to developing a "greener, more resilient and sustainable society".

"Campus sustainability and curriculum development are indispensable strategic goals," Mekky said. "Most importantly, research capacity building is one of the key drivers to develop innovative capacities to create more resilient and sustainable societies.

"Renewable energy, smart cities, technology-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions, green buildings, and so on, are significant areas of research that call for both financial and technical support," Mekky said.

In addition, universities in developing countries must follow a "value-driven approach" while engaging with actors in the industrial sector, she said.

"They should identify strategic opportunities that articulate sustainability in achieving their corporate social responsibility [goals] and focus on implementing sustainable business incubators to contribute to the development of green industrial parks and promote sustainable local production," Mekky added.

Information from: https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20221123075316208

Project embeds SDGs in curricula, identifies best practices

Author: Charma du Plessis

24 November 2022

Several universities in South Africa, together with a Greek institution and one in Cyprus as partners and funded by the European Union (EU) have been working on a project to embed the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into higher education curricula.

Rhodes University, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) and the University of Venda, all in South Africa, as well as the Frederick University in Cyprus and the University of Crete, Greece, have been taking part in the project that will end in January 2023 and, so far, have included hosting workshops and seminars about the SDGs, to establish best practices and embed these into curricula.

The project is led by the Rhodes Centre for Higher Education Research, Training and Learning, or CHERTL, headed by professors Jo-Anne Vorster and Lynn Quinn and the university's Community Engagement Division led by Diana Hornby.

The project is titled 'Professionalisation of Undergraduate Academic Teaching', or PUAT, and works across multiple disciplines to address the SDGs.

Some of the disciplines in which sustainability teaching and learning have been implemented include chemistry, economics, education, environmental science, geography, human kinetics and ergonomics, law, linguistics and psychology. An aim is to get all fields of study involved and includes an explicit focus on the topic of sustainability in teaching and learning.

The project was initiated in 2020 and has aimed to build capacity among academic staff at the undergraduate level to develop their teaching and learning techniques to meet the challenges posed by Sustainable Development Goals.

The project also has sought to embed the SDGs in multiple disciplines nationally, prioritised in South Africa in disciplines such as environment, agriculture, biology and related sciences, engineering and health sciences.

The integration of the SDGs and climate change into university curricula came up in several discussions at the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference in Egypt, or COP27, which ended on 20 November.

What is the EU funding for?

The EU funding for this project is aimed at a range of activities, including: "the purchase of equipment such as computers and other equipment to facilitate digital production and distribution of project resources; travel to partner institutions, staff costs and so forth" Vorster told *University World News*.

"Each partner university offers academic staff development opportunities such as workshops and webinars," she added.

According to Vorster, with this project, the university and partner institutions want to identify and disseminate

good practices related to the infusion of SGDs in curricula. The contexts in which these good practices emerge are analysed in order to identify the extent to which they can 'translate' to other contexts.

The university aims to develop a policy brief based on what has been learned from the project to contribute to national debates regarding the need to develop capacity among academic staff as teachers in higher education.

Best practices

Some best practices have emerged so far. These include: explicit outlining of and reflection on sustainability issues relevant to courses; the inclusion of critical reflection exercises in the curriculum to help students reflect on sustainability issues; the development of mutually beneficial relationships with communities in which curricula involves practical and service learning, and the exploration of values related to sustainability.

Another goal of the project is to develop an Online Community of Practice and a network for university teaching staff engaged in innovative teaching and learning practices as well as curriculum design and development for SDGs.

The project is aimed at establishing the necessary infrastructure and resources to monitor, assess and sustain all of these goals long-term.

According to Vorster, all the partners involved in the project have to contribute their knowledge, experience, thinking and best practices at workshops and webinars. This way, knowledge is pooled and distributed among all partners, allowing them to all adopt a wide variety of practices to improve their teaching and learning, Vorster said.

The project has Vorster and Quinn centrally involved in the design of workshops along with Hornby. Other Rhodes academics who have shared their expertise, and have contributed substantially according to Vorster, are advocate Shuaib Rahim (law), Andrew Todd (human kinetics), Dr Jonathan Davy (human kinetics), and professors Heila Lotz-Sisitka (research chair in global change and social learning systems development), Jen Snowball (economics) and Ingrid Schudel (environmental education).

UKZN's Professor Bala Pillay and Dr Thabisa Matsea from the University of Venda are driving the project on their campuses.

Information from: https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20221121072717507

Disability advocates criticise plans to end remote learning

Author: <u>AAP</u>

22 November 2022

Disability advocacy groups have slammed a decision by leading Australian universities to end remote learning options for students, reports *AAP*. Students from the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney who began their degrees online will need to show up in person from next year.

The University of Sydney said a decision by the national regulator requiring all international students to return to on-campus learning influenced their decision for domestic students. "We've been considering for some time how we will transition away from the remote teaching model we developed as a crisis response to the COVID-19 pandemic," a spokesperson told *AAP*. "Courses and units that were not designed to be delivered online do not provide the same high-quality experience as face-to-face classes."

Disability groups say the decision means students at increased COVID-19 risk will struggle to finish their degrees. "Failing to offer a safe and accessible pathway into study for people who are immunocompromised or at risk is not just poor business, it's discriminatory," advocate Samantha Connor said. **Full report on the SBS News site**

Information from: https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20221122134007870

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

10th International Conference on Geological and Civil Engineering (ICGCE 2023)

13-15 January, 2023

Tokyo, Japan

The aim of the 2023 10th International Conference on Geological and Civil Engineering (ICGCE 2023) is to provide a platform for researchers, engineers, academicians as well as industrial professionals from all over the world to present their research results and development activities in Geological and Civil Engineering and will be held in Tokyo, Japan, January 13-15, 2023.



The 2023 10th International Conference on Geological and Civil Engineering (ICGCE 2023) is the premier forum for the presentation of technological advances and research results in the fields of Geological and Civil Engineering. ICGCE 2023 will bring together leading engineers and scientists in Geological and Civil Engineering from around the world.

Topics of interest for submission include, but are not limited to:

- Civil and Structural Engineering
- Bridge Engineering
- Building Structure and Bridge Engineering
- Building Technology
- Cartography and Geographic Information System
- Coastal Engineering
- Computational Mechanics
- Computer Simulation and CAD/CAE
- Concrete Structures
- Construction and Control
- Detection and Transformation
- Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

- Material Quality and Control
- Metallic Structures
- Monitoring and Control Of Structures
- Operation and Maintenance
- Project Management
- Reliability and Durability of Structures
- Road, Bridge and Railway Engineering
- Safety and Monitoring
- Sanitary and Ground Water Engineering
- Seismic Engineering
- Structural Analysis and Design
- Structural Engineering and Disaster Reduction

- Engineering Management
- Environment-Friendly Construction and Development
- Geological Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Harbor Engineering
- Heating, Gas Supply, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Works
- Hydraulic Engineering

- Structural Rehabilitation, Retrofitting and Strengthening
- Surveying and Geo-informatics
- Surveying and Photogrammetry
- Surveying Engineering
- Transportation Engineering
- Tunnel, Subway and Underground Facilities
- Urban Planning
- Water Supply and Drainage Engineering

More information: http://www.icgce.org/

ICEFORUM2023 - International Forum on Infrastructure and Civil Engineering

06-08 February, 2023 Porto, Portugal



nternational Forum on Infrastructure and Civil Engineering (ICEFORUM2023), which will be held in Porto, Portugal during February 06-08, 2023. The aim of ICEFORUM2023 is to be a premier international forum to highlighting the novel developments, to share new ideas, research results and development experiences and providing networking opportunities with the peers to help establish connections for early career scientists to meet a diverse mix of researchers, decision makers to strengthen existing connections and forge new ones.

Also the main agenda of this conference is to bring together world-leading academics, practitioners, industry leaders, policymakers, and business professionals from the fields of Infrastructure and Civil Engineering to develop practical solutions for current challenges in these fields.

The conference series has featured plenary talks, keynote talks, special sessions, poster presentations, workshops, and contributed papers each year.

Sessions:

- Civil Engineering
- Infrastructure
- Construction and Management
- Infrastructure Planning
- Concrete Structures
- Architectural Design and Theories
- Structural Engineering
- Transport Infrastructure
- Building Technology Science

- Environment-Friendly Construction and Development
- Bridge Engineering
- Landscape Planning and Design
- Concrete Technology
- Advanced Structural Materials
- New Technologies and Methods in Civil Engineering
- Transportation Safety
- Green Building Materials and Technology
- Road, Bridge and Railway Engineering

- Planning for Risk and Natural Hazards
- Architecture
- Construction Technology
- Steel Structures
- Intelligent Transportation and Logistics
- Three-dimensional Transportation System
- Architectural Environment and Equipment Engineering
- Sustainable Transportation
- Advances in Civil Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Transportation Engineering
- Traditional & Advanced Construction Materials
- Earthquake and Structural Engineering
- Tunnel Construction
- Earthquake Engineering

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline January 06, 2023
Early bird Registration November 21, 2022
Standard Registration December 21, 2022
On-spot Registration February 06, 2023

More information: https://www.continuumforums.com/2023/iceforum#about

ICCEE 2023 - International Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering

16-17 March, 2023 Miami, United States

The International Research Conference is a federated organization dedicated to bringing together a significant number of diverse scholarly events for presentation within the conference program.



International Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Civil and Environmental Engineering. It also provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Call for Contributions

Prospective authors are kindly encouraged to contribute to and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts, papers and e-posters. Also, high quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or

theoretical work in all areas of Civil and Environmental Engineering are cordially invited for presentation at the conference. The conference solicits contributions of abstracts, papers and e-posters that address themes and topics of the conference, including figures, tables and references of novel research materials.

Topics

- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Analysis of Semi-rigid Connections
- Applied Computer Vision for Civil and Environmental
 Infrastructure Life-cycle Management Engineering
- Augmented and Virtual Reality
- Buckling and Stability
- Building Design, Construction, and Operation
- Civil Engineering, Management and Surveying
- Computer Controlled Site Instrumentation
- Conceptual Design Support
- Construction Automation and Robotics
- Construction Engineering and Management
- Dam Engineering
- Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Distributed Computing in Engineering
- Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering
- Energy for Building
- Environment and Energy
- Environmental Modeling
- Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Protection
- Formfinding, Topology and Structural Morphology
- Foundation Engineering
- Fracture Mechanics
- Geographical Information Systems
- Geotechnical Analysis and Design

- Ground Vibration
- Human Computer Interaction and Graphics
- Intelligent Construction Site
- Lifetime Costs
- Linear and Non-linear Dynamics
- Model Verification and Validation
- Modeling of Concrete Durability
- Monitoring and Maintenance of Infrastructure
- Monitoring of Structures & Buildings
- Numerical Modeling in Geotechnics
- Offshore Structures
- Optimisation
- Productivity
- Project Management and Quality Assessment
- Roads and Railways
- Rock Mechanics
- Sensors Networks/Instrumentation
- Simulation and Modeling
- Slope Design
- Software Standards, Quality Assurance and Benchmarking
- Soil-Structure Interaction (static and dynamic)

Important dates

Abstracts/Full-Text Paper Submission Deadline Notification of Acceptance/Rejection Final Paper (Camera Ready) Submission

& Early Bird Registration Deadline

Conference Dates

November 30, 2022 December 15, 2022

February 11, 2023 March 16-17, 2023

More information: https://waset.org/civil-and-environmental-engineering-conference-in-march-2023-inmiami

4th International Conference on Building Science, Technology and Sustainability (ICBSTS 2023)

14-16 June, 2023 Singapore



The 4th International Conference on Building Science, Technology and Sustainability (ICBSTS 2023) will be held in *Singapore* during June 14-16, 2023 and is the premier forum for the presentation of technological advances and research results in the fields of Building Science, Technology and Sustainability.

Civilization faces a decisive moment; its legacy became its problem, carved by everyday life comforts. As a result, disruptive effects on all habitats, from air pollution to catastrophic natural disasters, with an impact on the comfort and safety of the whole. Building Science, Technology, and Sustainability represent one of the paths to reach a balanced answer to ensuring economic and prosperous development.

Topics of interest

- Civil and Structural Engineering
- Reliability and Durability of Structures
- Structural Engineering and Disaster Reduction
- Road, Bridge and Railway Engineering
- Architecture and Urban Planning
- Advanced Construction Materials
- Building Energy Saving Technology
- Ecological Construction and Intelligent Control
- Materials Manufacturing and Processing
- Automation Engineering Processes
- Technological Devices and Equipment
- Multifunctional Materials
- More topics, please go to: http://www.icamc.org/cfp.html

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline January 25, 2023
 Notification Deadline February 20, 2023
 Registration Deadline March 10, 2023
 Conference Dates June 14-16, 2023

More information: http://www.icbsts.org/index.html

17th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering 2023

14 - 18 August, 2023 Astana, Kazakhstan

The 17th Asian Regional Conference on Geotechnical Engineering will take place on August 14-18 in 2023 at Hilton Astana Hotel, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The main theme of the 17 ARC is Smart Geotechnics for Smart Societies. Several subjects on modern geotechnical technologies and activities will be covered at during time of this forum. The 17 ARC is organized by the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society (ISSMGE).



A number of subjects in modern geotechnical technology and activities will be covered up to match the main theme. In a roll about of 60 years, we sincerely hope that the 17ARC will continue to bring great success following the glories of past ARCs (New Delhi 1960, Tokyo 1963, Haifa 1967, Bangkok 1971, Bangalore 1975, Singapore 1979, Haifa 1983, Kyoto 1987, Bangkok 1991, Beijing 1995, Seoul 1999, Singapore 2003, Kolkata 2007, Hong Kong 2011, Fukuoka 2015, Taipei 2019).

Kazakhstan is located in the geographical center of Central Asia. Frequent flights make it convenient to get here from most cities in Asia and Europe. During the conference, all the guests can taste some of the finest cuisine, livestock meat can be cooked in various ways and is usually served with a wide range of traditional bread products, beshbarmak (horse meat). Refreshments often include black tea and

traditional dairy drinks such as ayran (source milk), shubat (camel milk) and kymyz (horse milk). Kazakhstan is one of the safest countries to visit. Kazakhstan people are friendly and helpful. Kazakhs are always ready to welcome you with great and warm hospitality. It would be our great pleasure to welcome you to experience this great event and enjoy the dynamics of Nur-Sultan city (new capital of Kazakhstan).

Topics

- Soil characteristics and properties
- Underground space and deep excavations
- Tunneling
- Slope, debris flow and embankments
- Dams
- Shallow and deep foundations
- Soil dynamics and geotechnical earthquake engineering
- Soil improvement
- Geoenvironmental engineering
- Geotechnical reliability, risk assessment and management
- Geosynthetics and Geoproducts
- Engineering geology and rock engineering
- Forensic engineering
- Offshore and harbor geotechnics
- Geotechnical training and education In- situ testing and monitoring GeoEnergy
- Case History
- Investigation of foundations of historical structures, buildings and monuments

- Numerical analysis of soil-structure interaction
- Geotechnical Infrastructures
- Marine Geotechnics
- Mining and Geotechnics
- Design and Modeling
- Transportation Geotechnics, Engineering and Technology
- Piling foundations, technologies and testing
- Press-in piling technology
- Trenchless technology in underground constructions
- Pipelines on problematical soil ground
- Frost geotechnics
- BIM technology and geotechnical engineering
- Megaprojects and Megastructures on difficulty soil grounds

Important dates

Full Paper Submission Deadline
Notification of Final Paper Acceptance
Online Registration System Open
Early Bird Registration Deadline
Author Registration Deadline
Online Registration Deadline
Online Registration Deadline
July 15th, 2023
July 15th, 2023

17ARC Conference August 14th – August 18th, 2023

More information: https://17arc.org/

CALENDAR

Date Event Place

21-22.01.2023 6th International Conference on Civil Engineering and Urban Virtual Planning (CEU 2023) Conference



https://ceu2023.org/

06-08.02.2023 International Forum on Infrastructure and Civil Engineering (ICEFORUM2023)

Porto, PORTUGAL



https://www.continuumforums.com/2023/iceforum#about

20-21.03. 2023 International Conference on Environmental and Civil Istanbul,
Engineering Türkiye



https://waset.org/environmental-and-civil-engineering-conference-in-march-2023-in-istanbul

21-23.03.2023 Global Applied Higher Education Summit

Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



https://gahes.org/

13-14.05.2023 International Conference Architecture And Civil Engineering 2023

London, UK



https://econf.co/icace2023/index.html

22-23.05. 2023 International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering

Vancouver, CANADA





https://waset.org/seismology-and-earthquake-engineeringconference-in-may-2023-in-vancouver

22-23.06. 2023 International Conference on Computer Applications in Civil and Structural Engineering

Oslo, NORWAY

DIGITAL



https://waset.org/computer-applications-in-civil-andstructural-engineering-conference-in-june-2023-in-oslo

07-09.07.2023

17th Danube - European Conference on Geotechnical Engineering

Bucharest, ROMANIA



https://17decge.ro/

06-07.09.2023 International Conference on Smart Cities and Urban Design

Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC



https://waset.org/smart-cities-and-urban-design-conference-in-september-2023-in-prague

19-20.10.2023 2nd Joint International Conference of EUCEET and AECEF

Pisa, ITALY

The role of interactive teaching/learning approaches in the development of soft skills for Civil Engineering Education





20.10.2023 16th EUCEET ASSOCIATION General Assembly

Pisa, ITALY



25-26.10. 2023 International Conference on Coastal Structures and Civil Engineering

Bali, INDONESIA



https://waset.org/coastal-structures-and-civil-engineering-conference-in-october-2023-in-bali

16-17.12.2023 International Conference on Civil Engineering Education and Learning

Barcelona, SPAIN



https://waset.org/civil-engineering-education-and-learning-conference-in-december-2023-in-barcelona

12-17.11.2024 XVII Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

Pucón, CHILE



https://panamgeochile2024.cl