



Istanbul
April 7-9, 2026

EURIE 2026 SUMMIT

*Embracing Innovation and
Co-Creation in Higher Education*

CONFERENCE CATALOG



www.euriesummit.org



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THIS FAIR IS ORGANIZED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF TOBB (THE UNION OF CHAMBERS AND COMMODITY EXCHANGES OF TÜRKİYE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW NO.5174.



THE UNION WHERE CONTINENTS COME TOGETHER

We are proud to welcome you to EURIE 2026, the 11th annual Eurasia Higher Education Summit in Istanbul!

EURIE provides the perfect platform to build global connections, foster transnational partnerships, and exchange ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches to the internationalization of higher education.

Throughout EURIE 2026, we invite you to share your best moments and key highlights from the conference and exhibition area using **#EurieSummit**.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Flickr!

@euriesummit



LOCAL ORGANIZERS

EURIE Conference Coordinator: Ayşe Deniz ÖZKAN
adenizozkan@eurieeducationsummit.com

Exhibitor Services: Asel Expo
euriesummit@aselexpo.com

EURIE Secretariat:
eurie@eurieeducationsummit.com

WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear EURIE Participants,

As President of EURAS – Eurasian Universities Union and EURIE, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 11th Annual Eurasia Higher Education Summit – EURIE 2026.

Over the years, EURIE has grown into a leading international higher education gathering in the Eurasian region, bringing together a vibrant community of international educators, university leaders, policymakers, and sector partners from around the world. The summit provides a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas that shape the future of global higher education.

The EURIE 2026 conference program offers diverse opportunities to learn from distinguished experts, share experiences, and explore new approaches to internationalization. Through plenary sessions, panels, roundtables, and interactive workshops, participants will engage with key themes influencing higher education today—from digital transformation and artificial intelligence to evolving mobility patterns and innovative partnership models.

The EURIE Exhibition Hall will once again serve as a hub for networking and partnership-building. Institutions and organizations from different regions will connect, explore collaboration opportunities, and strengthen international engagement across the sector.

At a time when higher education institutions are navigating rapid transformation and complex global challenges, gatherings such as EURIE play an important role in fostering dialogue, cooperation, and shared learning. I hope that EURIE 2026 will inspire new perspectives, meaningful exchanges, and lasting partnerships among colleagues from across the world.

Thank you for being part of the EURIE community. I wish you a productive and inspiring summit in Istanbul.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Mustafa AYDIN
Founder & President
EURAS – Eurasian Universities Union / EURIE

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Venue

Istanbul Lutfi Kırdar – ICEC is in the heart of the Congress Valley with its magnificent Bosphorus view. The Main Building with Auditorium and the Rumeli Building with separable halls, foyers with daylight are suitable for all kinds of events from conventions to fairs, from concerts to exhibitions. It is located at the cross section of Istanbul's elegant restaurants and fashion district and its location provides easy and fast transportation to the important historical places of the city.

Location

All activities are situated in the Istanbul Lutfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) in the two-level Rumeli Building unless otherwise specified. The Conference panels, workshops and poster sessions will be held in the Lower Level of Rumeli Building and the exact locations are stated in the Conference Program. The Exhibition will be held in the Upper Level of Rumeli Building. EURIE 2026 Opening Ceremony will be held in Anadolu Auditorium.

Registration

Registration Desk is located at the entrance of the Rumeli Building. Please, pick up your badge and conference bag at the Registration Desk.

Registration Desk Opening Hours

April 6	10:00 – 17:00
April 7	09:00 – 17:00
April 8	09:00 – 17:00
April 9	09:00 – 13:00

Exhibitor Set-up

Exhibition set-up will take place on April 6 between the hours of 13:00- 17:00.

For enquiries and assistance please contact euriesummit@aselexpo.com

Services

Lunch will be served at the Exhibition Hall. Coffee breaks and a cash bar will be available for snacks and refreshments in the Exhibition Hall and the Conference Floor.

There are B2B meeting tables at the Exhibition Hall.

There is a Business Center available for the use of conference participants on the Conference Floor.

The Speaker Room is located at the Conference Floor.

EURIE 2026 Mobile App

Registered participants can download the EURIE 2026 Mobile App to maximize their engagement and conference experience. The mobile app is free to download and is available for both android and I-phone. The download link will be sent with the event voucher. You can follow the conference program, register for the workshops and the Turkish night, see the list of attendees, and send messages (only to those attendees who downloaded the app) on the EURIE 2026 app.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Campus Tours

April 6, 10:00-15:00

Campus tours will be hosted by select local university partners of EURIE 2026. These tours are optional and require prior registration. Participants may choose only one campus tour. Space is limited, and participation is subject to availability.

Participants should meet at the Rumeli Building Registration Desk at 10:00 to board the shuttles to the host campuses. Shuttles will return to the Convention Center by 15:00.

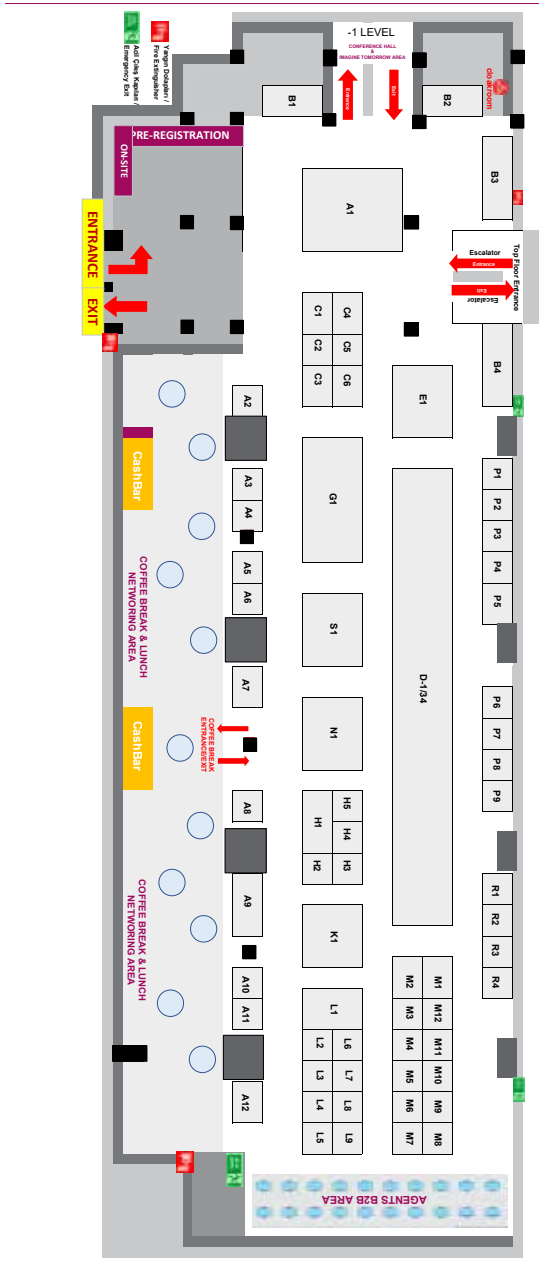
Turkish Night

April 7, 19:00-22:00

Registration via EURIE mobile app is required to attend. There will be shuttle buses from the convention center to the venue at 17:00.



EXHIBITION FLOOR PLAN



DAILY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

APRIL 6, MONDAY

Time	Activity
10:00-17:00	Registration
13:00-17:00	Exhibitor Set-up
10:00-15:00	Campus Tours (optional, registration required, subject to availability)

APRIL 7, TUESDAY

Time	Activity
09:00-17:00	Registration
09:30-12:30	Opening Ceremony
12:30-17:00	Exhibition Hall Open
12:30-13:30	Opening Reception
14:00-15:00	Poster Sessions
15:00-16:30	Parallel Workshops (registration required, subject to availability)
19:00-22:00	Turkish Night

APRIL 8, WEDNESDAY

Time	Activity
09:00-17:00	Exhibition Hall Open
09:30-16:00	Parallel Panel Sessions
16:00-17:00	University Presidents Panel

APRIL 9, THURSDAY

Time	Activity
09:00-12:30	Exhibition Hall Open
09:30-12:15	Parallel Panel Sessions
12:30-13:30	Closing Plenary

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**As of March 22, 2026. Please check the EURIE 2026 website for updates.*

APRIL 6, MONDAY

Time	Activity	Location
10:00-17:00	Registration Desk Open	Rumeli Hall
10:00-15:00	Optional Campus Tours *Boğaziçi University *Istanbul Aydın University *Yeditepe University Only one campus tour can be chosen. Capacity is limited. Registration is required and is available on a first come-first served basis.	Departure from Rumeli Hall entrance. <i>(Registration is required via EURIE app.)</i>
13:00-19:00	Exhibitor Set-up	

APRIL 7, TUESDAY

Time	Activity	Location
9:00-17:00	Registration Desk Open	Rumeli Hall
09:30-12:30	Opening Ceremony Protocol Speeches	Anadolu Auditorium
12:30-17:00	Exhibition Hall Open	Rumeli Hall
12:30-13:30	<i>Light Lunch</i>	Rumeli Hall Exhibition Area
13:00-17:00	IMAGINE TOMORROW	Sapphire Hall
14:00-15:00	Poster Sessions	Conference Floor
14:00-15:00	Around the World with EURIE: TÜRKİYE <i>*Panel organized by Higher Education Council of Türkiye</i> Burhaneddin Sandıkçı (Council of Higher Education Türkiye) Mustafa Efe (Council of Higher Education Türkiye)	Ruby Room
15:00-16:30	Workshop 1: Social Impact Through Virtual Exchange: Transforming Students into Global Citizens and Change Agents in Higher Education Facilitators: Patricia Szobonya (State University of New York Rockland Community College) Peter Marty (Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW)	Emerald Hall <i>(Registration required via EURIE App)</i>
15:00-16:30	Workshop 2: Maximizing International Partnerships Through Double Diplomas Facilitator: Alejandra-Maria Vilalta Perdomo (TEC de Monterrey)	Pearl Room <i>(Registration required via EURIE app)</i>
15:00-16:30	Workshop 3: Experiencing UNESCO Story Circles Facilitator: Darla K. Deardorff (Stellenbosch University)	Amber Room <i>(Registration is required via EURIE app.)</i>
15:30-16:30	Networking Session between THE and Rectors of Turkish Universities <i>*Closed session.</i>	Ruby Hall
18:00-21:00	Turkish Dinner	Venue TBA <i>(Registration is required via EURIE app.)</i>

APRIL 8, WEDNESDAY

Time	Activity	Location
09:00-17:00	Exhibition Hall Open	Rumeli Hall
09:30-10:15	<p>Panel: Beyond the Rankings- Fostering Strategic Partnerships and Research Lachyn Italmazova (Times Higher Education) "Building Strategic Partnerships Through Global Benchmarking" Gözde Köse Tokoz (Sabancı University) "From Rankings to Strategic Research - How We Can Utilize Rankings to Foster Impactful Research" Chair: TBA</p>	Ruby Hall
09:30-10:15	<p>Panel: Enhancing International Student Mobility and Experience: Innovative and Inclusive Practices Syed Raihan-UI-Islam (Daffodil International University) "DIU's Best Practices of Internationalization in the Post-Pandemic Era" Syeda Humaira Anwar (Iqra University) "Networking the World for Global Student Mobility" Chair: Nimet Bulut (Abdullah Gul University)</p>	Emerald Hall
09:30-10:15	<p>Around the World with EURIE: ROMANIA, BULGARIA, GEORGIA Mihai Sebea (Romanian American University) "Recent Developments in Romanian Higher Education" Dobromir Dimitrov (Medical University, Pleven) "Study in Bulgaria" Maia Shukhoshvili (Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia) "Georgia's Higher Education System in the Global Context: Partnerships and Pathways for International Cooperation"</p>	Pearl Room
09:00-17:00	IMAGINE TOMORROW	Sapphire Hall
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:30-11:15	<p>Panel: Transnational Futures: Lessons from European Practice for a Changing Global Landscape of TNE Eduardo Ramos (British Council) "Transnational Futures: Strategic Insights from the UK on Transnational Education" Nilgün Yalcin Felchner (British Council) "Insights from British Council's study on Quality Assurance in the Context of TNE Growth in Uzbekistan" Chair: Ayşen Güven (British Council)</p>	Ruby Hall
10:30-11:15	<p>Panel: Internationalization through Staff Development B. Begüm Çiçek (Koç University) "Globalizing the Campus from Within: Capacity Building Model for University Staff" Burcu Akpınar (Middle East Technical University) "Global Perspectives on Staff Mobility: The METU Experience" Chair: TBA</p>	Emerald Hall
10:30-11:15	<p>Around the World with EURIE: BRAZIL Lina Maria Grajaes Agudelo (Universidade Federal do Tocantins) "Research and Innovation in Brazilian Higher Education"</p>	Pearl Room
11:30-12:15	<p>SPOTLIGHT SESSION on University Collaboration for Sustainable Impact Phil Baty (Times Higher Education) "University Collaboration for Sustainable Impact"</p>	Ruby Hall

APRIL 8, WEDNESDAY

Time	Activity	Location
11:30-12:15	<p>Panel: Higher Education and Women Academics in the Age of AI: Experiences, Opportunities and Future Outlook</p> <p>Hatice Ayataç (Istanbul Technical University) Bahar Demirel (Firat University) Nigar Demircan Çakar (İstanbul Aydın University) Chair: Sezer Komsuoğlu <i>*This session will be conducted in Turkish</i></p>	Emerald Hall
11:30-12:15	<p>Around the World with EURIE: PAKISTAN</p> <p>Abid Hameed (Bahria University) Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry (Organisation of Islamic Countries COMSTECH) Prof. Dr. Nassar Ikram (Iqra University)</p>	Pearl Room
12:00-13:00	<i>Light Lunch</i>	
13:00-13:45	<p>SPOTLIGHT SESSION on International Associations of Universities</p> <p>Shawn Chen (International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) and Sias University) "Connecting Leaders, Co-Creating Futures: IAUP's Mission in Global Higher Education Cooperation" Yvonne Farrand (Businet) "BUSINET: Empowering Universities through Global Collaboration" Chair: Mian Imran Masood (Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan)</p>	Ruby Hall
13:00-13:45	<p>Panel: International Student Recruitment Today</p> <p>Berna Vişne (Sabancı University) "From First Contact to Cultural Competence: Rethinking Recruitment through an Intercultural Lens" Chair: Barış Alpaslan (Social Sciences University of Ankara)</p>	Emerald Hall
13:00-13:45	<p>Around the World with EURIE: PALESTINE In Solidarity and Partnership: Safeguarding the Future of Palestinian Higher Education</p> <p>Amir Khalil (ERASMUS + National Office, Palestine) "Building Global Partnerships with Palestine Through Erasmus+: Case Studies and Effective Models" Radwan Barakat (Hebron University) "Challenges and Prospects of Palestinian Universities" Kamalin Shaat (Islamic University of Gaza) "Solidarity in Time of Scholasticide: Why Palestinian Universities Need Global Partnerships Now" Chair: Omar Shweiki (Friends of Palestinian Universities)</p>	Pearl Room
14:00-14:45	<p>Panel: Global Engagement Strategies for Comprehensive Internationalization</p> <p>Julian Yue (Sias University) "Application Cases of Internationalization in Chinese Higher Education Institutions" Emeric Abrignani (FIGS Education) "International Strategic Partnerships Reimagined: A French Model for Global Co-Creation" Chair: TBA</p>	Ruby Hall

APRIL 8, WEDNESDAY

Time	Activity	Location
14:00-14:45	Panel: International Student Mobility: Data and Trends Babitha LECLÈRE (MSM Unify) “Passports to Platforms” Gyles Hawkins (Studyportals) “Data-driven insights on the trends shaping Eurasia’s next decade” Chair: TBA	Emerald Hall
14:00-14:45	SPOTLIGHT SESSION From Türkiye to the World: A New Era of Transnational Universities TBA	Pearl Room
15:00-14:45	Panel: Global Engagement Strategies of U.S. Universities Antoine L. Battle (Texas International Education Consortium-TIEC) “A Texas Gateway to the World: Consortium-Based Global Engagement in U.S. Higher Education” Alina Pap (Pace University) “Navigating Political Challenges and Celebrating Success: The Resilience of Cross-Atlantic Academic Partnerships” Chair: Ivor Emmanuel (University of California Berkeley)	Ruby Hall
15:00-14:45	Panel: Blended Intensive Programs Ferdi Hofstede (Windesheim University of Applied Sciences) İrsinu Atalay (Dokuz Eylül University) “Beyond Borders: Designing Successful Virtual & Hybrid Education Through COIL and BIP” Ioana Serafinceanu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) “Enhancing Internationalization through Blended Intensive Programs”	Emerald Hall
15:00-15:30	Informational Session on Conference/ Event Management Tasdeeq Ahmed (Zoho Backstage) “From Chaos to Clarity: Running Smarter Events for Modern Institutions”	Pearl Room
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:00-17:00	SPOTLIGHT SESSION: University Presidents’ Panel Mehmet Durman (Yeditepe University) Hassan Muhammad Khan (Riphah International University) Faisal Manzoor (University of Sialkot) Fatbardh Sallaku (Agricultural University of Tirana) Cássia Curan Turci (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) Moderator: Ayşe Deniz Özkan (EURIE)	Ruby Hall
16:00-17:00	EURAS Forum Welcome Address by Mustafa Aydın (President, EURAS) Olgun Çiçek (AD Scientific Index) “Redefining Institutional Excellence by Real-Time Academic Intelligence” Keynote address: Matthew Vella (Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation of Malta)	Emerald Hall
16:00-17:00	Special Panel for TÖMER Centers AI and Turkish Language Education within Digital Transformation Framework Fatma Bölükbaşı Kaya (Istanbul Cerrahpaşa University) Mehmet Yalçın Yılmaz (DILMER, Istanbul University) Chair: Emrah Boylu (Yunus Emre Institute) <i>*This session will be conducted in Turkish.</i>	Pearl Room

APRIL 9, THURSDAY

Time	Activity	Location
09:00-12:00	Exhibition Hall Open	
09:30-10:15	<p>Panel: Social Impact Rankings Mudhaffar Sadiq Al-Zuhairy (Al-Mustaqbal University) “Global Rankings and Social Impact: The Case of Al-Mustaqbal University” Özlem Erden Başaran (TED University) Öykü Işıl Aydın (TED University) “Leveraging Sustainability Ranking Applications as a Catalyst for Institutional Change”</p>	Ruby Hall
09:30-10:15	<p>Panel: Role of English Proficiency in Shaping Fair, Transparent, and Selective Admissions Stephen Carey (ELSAA - English Language Standard Advisory Authority) “English language - to what extent is support for students effective?” Sandy Bhargal-Chaib (SB Consulting) “Strategic, evidence-based recommendations for policy-setting” Angela Gayton (University of Glasgow) “How institutions can support English language literacy in the long term” Chair: Alejandra Vilalta-Perdomo (Tec de Monterrey)</p>	Emerald Hall
09:30-10:30	<p>Panel: Global Learning Shyla Talluri (PURE Global) “Bridging Continents Through Education: Building Sustainable Partnerships for Global Learning Equity” Nevila Rama (Mediterranean University of Albania) “Internationalization of Higher Education in Small and Developing Countries” Chair: TBA</p>	Pearl Room
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
10:30-11:15	<p>Panel: Institutional Approaches for Transforming International Education for Sustainability Scott Blair (Sulitest Impact) “The landscape of sustainability education and whole-institutional approaches to education for sustainability” Funda Yağcı Acar (Koç University) “Reimagining Roles of University in Sustainability” Chair: Fatma Yeşim Ekinci (Yeditepe University)</p>	Ruby Hall
10:30-11:15	<p>Panel: Erasmus+: A Funding Mechanism For Mobilities and Cooperation Ranâ Kasapoğlu Önder (Turkish National Agency) “Erasmus+ Centralized Actions For Higher Education Institutions” Ahmet Çörekçioğlu (Turkish National Agency) “European Universities Initiative as Strategic Cooperation Example in Türkiye” Emrah Acar (Istanbul Technical University) “European University Alliances in Action: The EELISA Experience at ITU”</p>	Emerald Hall

APRIL 9, THURSDAY

Time	Activity	Location
10:30-11:15	Panel: International Partnerships for Vocational Education Muhammed Imran Ali (Signet Institute of Australia) “The VET Partnership Blueprint: Translating Australian VET Excellence into Sustainable Global Alliances” TBA	Pearl Room
11:00-12:00	Roundtable: UNESCO Chairs Imperative of Intercultural Understanding on Peace Building in the Societies Darla K. Deardoff (Stellenbosch University) “Intercultural Competence as a Foundation for Sustainable Peace” Hızır Tarık Oğuzlu (İstanbul Aydın University) “Building Bridges: The Role of Cultural Understanding in Peacebuilding” Chair: Osman Gültekin (İstanbul Aydın University)	Amber Room
11:30-12:15	Panel: AI-Assisted International Student Support Hakan Karaoğlu (EduEnable) “AI-Driven Student Support: Rethinking Engagement, Retention, and Well-Being in Higher Education” Chair: Bilge Kağan Özdemir (Anadolu University)	Ruby Hall
11:30-12:15	Panel: The Rise of Microcredentials in International Higher Education Hakan Ergin (Boğaziçi University) “Internationalization of Higher Education through Microcredentials: An Emerging Form?” Yuliia Bleshmudt (FIBAA) “Quality Assurance for Micro-Credentials: Standards, Transferability, and Labour Market Relevance” Ejder Yelken (Micro-Credentials Association, Türkiye) “Enhancing Employability and Mobility Through Micro-Credentials” Chair: Olgun Çiçek (EURAS)	Emerald Hall
11:30-12:15	Panel: Education for UN's Sustainable Development Goals Jon-Hans Coetzer (United Nations Institute for Training and Research - UNITAR) “Navigating an uncertain, changing world and an evolving learning landscape: UN and Higher Education collaborative partnerships” Tina Stoum (United Nations Development Programme) “Skills for the Green and Digital Transitions: An International Development Perspective” Chair: TBA	Pearl Room
12:30-13:30	Closing Plenary Session: Advancing Gender Equality in Science Tonya Blowers (Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World- OWSD) “From Individuals to Institutions and from Local to Global: How the OWSD is Transforming Higher Education” Tista Prasai Joshi (Nepal Academy of Science and Technology) “A Personal Journey of Leadership and Impact in Higher Education” Nadia Ayub (College of Economics and Social Development, IoBM) “A Personal Journey of Leadership and Impact in Higher Education”	Ruby Hall

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1: Social Impact Through Virtual Exchange: Transforming Students into Global Citizens and Change Agents in Higher Education

April 7, Tuesday/ 15:00- 16:30

Emerald Hall

Workshop Description: This interactive workshop will explore how virtual exchange initiatives move beyond cultural exchange toward transformative social learning that centers on justice, global citizenship, and community-engaged inquiry. Panelists will discuss virtual exchange projects implemented across disciplines including human rights, peacebuilding, and sustainable rural and mountain development in collaboration with institutional partners in the United States, South Africa, Colombia, Jordan, Iraq, Switzerland, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, and Pakistan. Participants will be invited to take part in an interactive mapping activity to align potential collaborative project themes with one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), generating tangible starting points for virtual exchange initiatives on their home campuses.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

- Identify challenges and develop strategies in co-designing virtual exchange collaborations.
- Develop learning outcomes that emphasize social impact and global engagement in virtual exchange.
- Apply a framework for integrating the UN SDGs into curriculum-based international collaboration.

Target Audience: Educators across all disciplines.

Facilitators' Bio: Patricia Szobonya, Professor and Program Director of Legal Studies, Paralegal Studies, and Criminal Justice programs at Rockland Community College. She currently serves as the SUNY COIL Campus Coordinator. She has participated in international virtual collaborations with Universities in Morocco, China, Mexico, Columbia, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Jordan, and Iraq. She co-authored several publications on virtual exchange and has presented at numerous national and international conferences.

Peter Marty, MSc ETH, is a Lecturer, Environmental Engineer, and Senior Scientist at ZHAW University of Applied Sciences, with a focus on spatial planning & sustainable development in rural and mountain areas. He has participated in SPRINT collaborative online international learning collaborations with Universities in Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Iran.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 2: Maximizing International Partnerships Through Double Diplomas

April 7, Tuesday/ 15:00- 16:30

Pearl Room

Brief Description: In this workshop, participants will be able to explore possibilities to develop Double Diplomas for undergraduate students to further develop their options for studying abroad. In this process, it is crucial to develop a deep knowledge about the similarities and the differences between different academic systems; to find solutions to match curricula with international partners; and work in a complex environment affected by institutional policies, national rules and requirements, and geopolitical environments.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and prioritize key challenges on developing double diplomas. Prepare a check list.
- Reframe problems into opportunities by understanding design thinking methodologies and by connecting different perspectives to cross-regional references and experiences.
- Apply simple techniques to develop a concrete action plan for new double diplomas.

Target Audience: International Education Leaders and Officers with some comprehensive internationalization experience.

Facilitators' Bio: Alejandra M. Vilalta Perdomo, PhD is the Director for International Academic Development & Global Initiatives at Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. She has 30+ years' experience developing international programs and initiatives, leading negotiations with institutions in different continents. She has teaching and consulting experience on international negotiations and partnerships, entrepreneurship, franchising, social community development and executive protocol.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 3: Experiencing UNESCO Story Circles

April 7, Tuesday/ 15:00- 16:30

Amber Room

Workshop Description: This interactive workshop invites participants to experience the UNESCO Story Circles methodology—a participatory storytelling approach designed to foster dialogue, mutual understanding, and social connection across differences and lived experiences. Rooted in UNESCO’s principles of intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding, Story Circles create a structured yet deeply human space where every voice is valued.

Through guided storytelling and deep, generous listening, participants will take part in a facilitated Story Circle experience, learning how personal narratives can surface shared values, challenge assumptions, and build empathy. The workshop emphasizes presence, respect, and curiosity, encouraging participants to engage not as debaters or problem-solvers, but as listeners first.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will:

- Experience a UNESCO Story Circle firsthand as both storyteller and listener
- Learn the core principles, roles, and facilitation practices of UNESCO Story Circles
- Reflect on how storytelling can support inclusion, dialogue, and community cohesion
- Explore practical applications of UNESCO Story Circles in education, community engagement, cultural work, and organizational settings

Target Audience: Anyone who would like to experience UNESCO’s impactful intercultural methodology, UNESCO Story Circles, and who wants to learn more about developing intercultural competence.

Facilitator’s Bio: Dr. Darla K. Deardorff is the Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence at Stellenbosch University in South Africa and a Research Scholar at Duke University. She is the Founding President of the World Council on Intercultural and Global Competence and previously served for 19 years as Executive Director of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA). With over 30 years of experience in international education, Dr. Deardorff is recognized globally for her work on intercultural competence, internationalization, and global learning.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

OPENING CEREMONY

April 7, Tuesday / 09:30-12:30

Anadolu Auditorium



Prof. Dr. Erol Özvar

**President
Council of Higher Education,
Türkiye**

He is a professor of economics and economic history. He was born in Istanbul in 1966. He completed his undergraduate degree at Marmara University, Department of Economics in 1989. He completed his master's and doctorate degrees in economic history at the same university. His scholarly works generally address the changes in economic and financial institutions specific to the Middle East and the Ottoman Empire in particular. Among Erol Özvar's works published in Turkish and foreign languages, his book *The Application of Malikane in Ottoman Finance* (Istanbul: Kitabevi Publications 2004) received the best book award in 2005 from the Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Center, a division of Garanti Bank. Later, he co-edited *Ottoman budgets* with Mehmet Genç. This work, published in two volumes under the title *Ottoman Finance: Institutions and Budgets* (Istanbul: Garanti Bank Ottoman Bank Archives and Research Center 2006), won the International Halil İnalçık History Award in 2013.

Between 2009 and 2012, he worked as a visiting scholar at the Center for Middle East Studies at Harvard University and at the Program in Islamic Law Studies at Harvard Law School, where he received research support. He served on the scientific board of the Turkish Historical Society and is a member of the executive board of the International Association for the Social and Economic History of Türkiye. He is a member of the scientific board of the International Association for Economic History (Fondazione Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica F. Datini, Italy).

Erol Özvar, a faculty member at the Faculty of Economics, is married and has three children. He was elected President of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) by Presidential Decree No. 374 dated July 30, 2021. He was elected as the President of YÖK for the second time by Presidential Decree No. 32973 dated August 1, 2025.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

OPENING CEREMONY

April 7, Tuesday / 09:30-12:30

Anadolu Auditorium



Phil Baty

Chief Global Affairs Officer
Times Higher Education



Shawn Chen

President
International Association of
University Presidents (IAUP)



Prof. Oliver Günther

President
University of Potsdam



Prof. Sumaira Rehman

Chair
Pakistan APSUP Delegation

SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS' PANEL

April 8, Wednesday / 16:00-17:00

Ruby Hall

Mehmet Durman (Yeditepe University)
Hassan Muhammad Khan (Riphah International University)
Faisal Manzoor (University of Sialkot)
Fatbardh Sallaku (Agricultural University of Tirana)
Cássia Curan Turci (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro)
Moderator: Ayşe Deniz Özkan (EURIE)

April 8, Wednesday / 16:00-17:00

Emerald Hall

EURAS Forum

Welcome Address by Mustafa Aydın (President, EURAS)
Olgun Çiçek (AD Scientific Index)
"Redefining Institutional Excellence by Real-Time Academic Intelligence"
Keynote Address: Matthew Vella (Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation of Malta)

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

April 9, Thursday / 12:30-13:30

Ruby Hall

Advancing Gender Equality in Science

Tonya Blowers (Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World- OWSD)
"From Individuals to Institutions and from Local to Global: How the OWSD is Transforming Higher Education"
Tista Prasai Joshi (Nepal Academy of Science and Technology)
"A Personal Journey of Leadership and Impact in Higher Education"
Nadia Ayub (College of Economics and Social Development, IoBM)
"A Personal Journey of Leadership and Impact in Higher Education"

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster No	Presenter	Organization	Poster Title
1	Scott Blair	Sulitest Impact	Building and Assessing Key Sustainability Competencies in Higher Education
2	Tugay Durak	University College London	From International Education to International Academia
3	Rizwan Ahmad	Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology	Study Abroad Program with Partner University at PAF-IAST, Pakistan
4	Burcu Akpınar	Middle East Technical University	Fostering Belonging: METU's Dual Approach to Mobility Students' Integration"
5	Dilber Aliyeva Gögsu	Beykoz University	Industry-Driven Internationalisation: Global Perspectives through the BEYKOZ UNIVERSITY Applied Education Approach
6	Madina Nabiyeva	Sabahattin Zaim University	Language Camps Abroad
7	Nezihe İralı	Anadolu Kültür ve Eğitim Vakfı (AKEV)	Wisdom Across Generations: Istanbul Aydin University's Lifelong Learning Program for Older Adults
8	Lela Javakhishvili	Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University	N1 University in Georgia
9	Romina Tahiraj	IUniversity of Vlora "İsmail Qemali"	Study Across Borders- University of Vlora "İsmail Qemali"
10	Cameron Bell	Hellenic American University	Study Abroad in Greece by Hellenic American University
11	Amine Haj Taieb	University of Sfax	Strategic Internationalization of University of Sfax through WINTEX, Fashion Forward, and Fashion for Tomorrow Projects
12	Danish Ahmad	Tristar Education	Studying in Türkiye: From Emerging Destination to Global Education Hub – A Practitioner's Perspective.
13	Gürkan Donat	İstanbul Aydın University	A Delightful Way To Achieve Multicultural Immersion and Understanding

EURIE SPEAKERS

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ACAR Emrah	EELISA European University ITU Project Manager, Istanbul Technical University, Türkiye
ACAR YAĞCI Funda	Vice President for Academic Affairs, Koç University, Türkiye
AHMED Tasdeeq	Regional Manager, Zoho Backstage, India
AKPINAR Burcu	International Cooperations Office Coordinator, Middle East Technical University, Türkiye
AL-ZUHAIRY Mudhaffar Sadiq	Director of Scientific and Academic Supervision, Al-Mustaqbal University, Iraq
ALI Muhammad Imran	Head of Sales and Marketing, Signet Institute of Australia, Australia
ALPASLAN Barış	Professor, Social Sciences University Of Ankara, Türkiye
ANWAR Syeda Humaira	Head of Internationalization, Sustainability & Strategic Planning, Iqra University, Pakistan
ATALAY Işınısu	IRO Coordinator, Dokuz Eylul University, Türkiye
AYATAÇ Hatice	Professor, Istanbul Technical University, Türkiye
AYDIN Mustafa	Professor, President, EURAS&EURIE, Türkiye
AYDIN Öykü Işıl	Librarian, TED University, Türkiye
AYUB Nadia	Dean & Professor / OWSD Executive Board Member, College of Economics and Social Development (CESD), IoBM, Pakistan
BARAKAT Radwan	VP / Academic Affairs, Hebron University, Palestine
BAŞARAN Özlem Erden	Lecturer, TED University, Türkiye
BATY Phil	Chief Global Affairs Officer, Times Higher Education, United Kingdom
BATTLE Antoine L.	Global Membership Manager, Texas International Education Consortium-TIEC, USA
BHANGAL-CHAIB Sandy	Consultant, Ethical recruitment, ICEF, United Kingdom
BLAIR Scott	Content Development Editor, Sulitest Impact, France
BLESHMUDT Yuliia	Division Manager International Accreditation Procedures, FIBAA, Germany
BLOWERS Tonya	Coordinator, Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World, Italy
BOYLU Emrah	Head of Turkish Language Teaching Department, Yunus Emre Institute, Türkiye
BÖLÜKBAŞ KAYA Fatma	Professor, İstanbul Cerrahpaşa Üniversitesi, Türkiye

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BULUT Nimet	Erasmus Institutional Coordinator, Abdullah Gul University, Türkiye
CAREY Stephen	Co - Founder, ELSAA - English Language Standard Advisory Authority, United Kingdom
CHAUDHRY Muhammad Iqbal	Coordinator General, Organisation of Islamic Countries COMSTECH, Pakistan
CHEN Shawn	President of International Association of University Presidents(IAUP), Founder and the Chairman of the Board of Sias University, USA
ÇİÇEK B.Begüm	International Community Services Specialist, Koç University, Türkiye
ÇİÇEK Olgun	International Expert in Higher Education & TVET, Quality Assurance & Accreditation, AD Scientific Index, Slovenia
COETZER Jon-Hans	Senior Programme Specialist, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Germany
ÇÖREKÇİOĞLU Ahmet	Assistant Expert, Turkish National Agency, Türkiye
DEARDORFF Darla	Chairholder, UNESCO Chair on Intercultural Competence Development, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
DEMİRCAN ÇAKAR Nigar	Advisor to the Rectorate, İstanbul Aydın University, Türkiye
DEMİREL Bahar	Professor, Fırat University, Türkiye
DIMITROV Dobromir	Head of the Surgical Oncology Clinic, UMHAT "Dr. Georgi Stranski" – Pleven, Medical University – Pleven, Bulgaria
DURMAN Mehmet	Rector, Yeditepe University, Türkiye
EFE Mustafa	Head of the Department of International Relations at the Council of Higher Education of Republic of Türkiye, Türkiye
EKİNCİ Fatma Yeşim	Professor, Yeditepe University, Türkiye
EMMANUEL Ivor	Director of International Office, University of California Berkeley, USA
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FARRAND Yvonne	General Manager, Businet, Belgium
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GRAJALES AGUDELO Lina Maria	Director of the Office of the Provost for Research, Graduate Studies, and Innovation, Universidade Federal do Tocantins, Brazil
GÜLTEKİN Osman	Director, International Relations Directorate, İstanbul Aydın University, Türkiye

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GÜVEN Ayşen	Education Director, British Council, Türkiye
HAMEED Abid	Rector, Bahria University, Pakistan
HAWKINS Gyles	Student Recruitment Consultant, Studyporals, Netherlands
HOFSTEDE Ferdi	Degree Programme Director International Business, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, Netherland
IKRAM Nassar	Vice-Chancellor, Iqra University, Pakistan
ITALMAZOVA Lachyn	Regional Director, Times Higher Education, United Kingdom
KARAOĞLU Hakan	Partner, EduEnable, Estonia
KASAPOĞLU ÖNDER Ranâ	Head of Communication Department, Turkish National Agency, Türkiye
KENNEDY Kathleen D	Senior Director, MIT Horizon, Executive Director, MIT Center for Collective Intelligence, USA
KHALIL Amir	Director, ERASMUS + National Office, Palestine, Palestine
KHAN Hasan Muhammad	Chancellor, Riphah International University, Pakistan
KOMSUOGLU Sezer	Former Rector, Kocaeli University, Türkiye
KÖSE TOKSÖZ Gözde	Research Planning and Policy Development Manager, Sabancı University, Türkiye
LECLÈRE Babitha	Vice President - Partnerships, MSM Unify, France
MANZOOR Faisal	Chairman of Board of Governors, University of Sialkot, Pakistan
MARTY Peter	Lecturer In Regional Development, Senior Researcher, ZHAW University of Applied Sciences, Sweden
MASOOD Mian Imran	Vice President, Association of Private Sector Universities Of Pakistan
OĞUZLU Hızır Tarık	Professor, UNESCO Chair on Education for Sustainable Peace, Istanbul Aydın University, Türkiye
ÖZDEMİR Bilge Kağan	Professor, Anadolu University. Türkiye
ÖZKAN Ayşe Deniz	Conference Coordinator, EURIE. Türkiye
ÖZVAR Erol	Prof. Dr., President, Council of Higher Education Republic of Türkiye
PAP Alina	Academic Director for International Partnerships, Pace Univeristy, USA
PRASAI JOSHI Tista	Senior Scientist, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology, Nepal
RAIHAN-UL-ISLAM Syed	Deputy Director at International Office, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh

EURIE SPEAKERS

RAMA Nevila	Vice Rector for Academic Affairs and Curricula Development, Mediterranean University of Albania, Albania
RAMOS Eduardo	Head of Higher Education Systems & Internationalisation, British Council, United Kingdom
REHMAN Sumaira	Rector, Superior University, Pakistan
SHAAT Kamalain	Deputy Chairman, Board of Trustees, The Islamic University of Gaza, Palestine
SALLAKU Fatbardh	Rector, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania
SANDIKÇI Burhaneddin	Member of General Assembly, Council of Higher Education of Republic of Türkiye, Türkiye
SEBEA Mihai	Vice-Rector, Romanian American University, Romania
SERAFINCEANU Ioana	Head of the International Relations Office, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania
SHWEIKI Omar	Director, Friends of Palestinian Universities, United Kingdom
SHUKHOSHVILI Maia	Head of the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia
STOUM Tina	Chief of Regional Programme, United Nations Development Programme, Türkiye
SZOBONYA Patricia	Program Director and Professor of Legal Studies, SUNY COIL Campus Coordinator, State University of New York (SUNY) Rockland Community College, USA
TALLURI Shayla	Founder and CEO, Pure Global, USA
TURCI Cássia Curan	Vice-Rector, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
VELLA Matthew	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, Malta
VIALTA PERDOMO Alejandra-Maria	Director of International Academic Development & Global Initiatives, Tec de Monterrey, Mexico
VİŞNE Berna	International Relations Specialist, Sabancı University, Türkiye
FELCHNER Nilgün Yalçın	Regional Lead, Europe. British Council, United Kingdom
YELKEN Ejder	Director, Skills & Research Micro-Credentials Association, Türkiye
YILMAZ Mehmet Yalçın	Director of DİLMER, İstanbul University, Türkiye
YUE Julian	Director of Office of International Affairs (OIA), Sias University, China

ISTANBUL GUIDE

Time Zone

UTC/GMT + 3 hours

Currency

The country's official currency is the Turkish Lira. (Abbreviated as TL in Turkish, international code TRY)

Voltage

230 V, European Standard Sockets

Telephone

Turkey's code: +90

Area codes are: 0212 for the European side – 0216 for the Asian side

Emergency Numbers

Medical Emergency: **112** Police: **155** Fire: **110**

Tourism Police: **0212 527 45 03**

Transportation

Public transportation in Istanbul comprises of buses, various rail and metro systems, funiculars and maritime services. Cash payment is not accepted on public transportation. One-use tokens or a contactless smart card called Istanbulkart can be used for fare payment. Istanbulkart can be purchased at major transport stations and be reloaded with credit at automatic vending machines or private vendors. More information is available at <http://www.iett.gov.tr/en>

Yellow taxis can be hailed on the street. They all have taximeters. Please keep in mind that the distance between any two points in Istanbul can be far and the traffic is very heavy during rush hour.

ISTANBUL GUIDE



Around the venue

The neighbourhoods around the conference venue are leisure districts famous for cafes, restaurants, shops, museums, art galleries and streets with unique ambiance. Taksim Square is a main transportation hub and a popular destination for both tourists and the natives of Istanbul. Istiklal, a pedestrian street, showcases Art Nouveau and Neo-Classical Architecture, old consulate buildings and churches. Istiklal Street houses boutiques, music stores, bookstores, cinemas, as well as many options for dining and entertainment from patisseries to pubs. You can take the Nostalgic Tram to Tunel, stop by Pera Museum or have a drink at the Flower Market. Right across the ICEC- Lutfi Kirdar is the Harbiye Military Museum. Just a short walk from the venue in the opposite direction of Taksim will take you to Nişantaşı, a luxury shopping and dining area. Down the hill and on the Bosphorus shore are the two special neighborhoods of Beşiktaş and Dolmabahçe. At Beşiktaş, you can visit the Naval Museum and then walk to the famous Dolmabahçe Palace, which served as the administrative seat of the Ottoman Empire in the late 19th and early 20th century. A new destination on the Bosphorus shore is Galataport which is a cruise port, a retail outlet with many dining options, as well as home to two must-see museums, Istanbul Modern and Istanbul Museum of Painting and Sculpture.



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- Global Higher Education Policy: Navigating a Changing World

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Submission Deadline: November 15, 2026

Panels announced: January 15, 2027

For inquiries about the conference program, please contact:

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Join EURAS- Eurasian Universities Union as a full member or associated partner!

About EURAS:

- **Established:** 2008
- **Purpose:** A non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening international education collaboration across the Eurasian region (Europe, Asia, the Balkans, Caucasus, and the Middle East).
- **Members:** 146+ universities and higher education institutions.
- **Scope:** Covering a vast region home to two-thirds of the global population, EURAS fosters educational development and cultural exchange.

Goals:

- Foster international cooperation and dynamic networks.
- Drive educational advancement and global standards within Eurasia.
- Encourage dialogue and knowledge sharing across diverse cultures.

Vision:

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Mission:

- Provide access to world-class education services for regional universities.
- Build strong networks to elevate academic standards.
- Support innovation, research, and policy development.
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Refer to EURAS official web site if you would like to review the entire process of the membership: www.euras-edu.org/membership

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