



NEWSLETTER 3/2024

EUCEET Association

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FROM THE EUCEET ASSOCIATION

17th General Assembly EUCEET Association 2024 –save the date!

The 17th General Assembly of the EUCEET Association will take place in Paris, France, on **18th October 2024**, kindly hosted by the **Ecole Spéciale des Travaux Publics, du Bâtiment et de l'Industrie (ESTP Paris)** from 10am to 12pm – ESTP – Cachan Campus

Building and Room: [Board room on the ground floor of the "Maison de famille"](#)

Directions:

41-43 Rue Marcel Bonnet 94230 Cachan

Metro line: RER B – Stop "Arcueil – Cachan"

2025 EUCEET Association Award for excellence in teaching in civil engineering

3rd EUCEET ASSOCIATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING CIVIL ENGINEERING



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

Each member of EUCEET Association can only nominate one candidate or one group of candidates. Candidates or leaders of a teaching team have to be part of the faculty of a member of EUCEET Association in the moment of the nomination.

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 Secretary of the Jury, Prof. Ilda RUSI (ilda_rusi@universitetipolis.edu.al) ccing the Secretary of EUCEET Association Eng. Mia Trifu (mia.trifu@utcb.ro), before **June 1st, 2025**.

The documentation that must be provided includes:

- 1) a data form with basic information,
- 2) a report,
- 3) a picture of the leader or of the group (for communication purposes) and
- 4) a certificate of the fact that the candidate or leader of the candidate.

JURY COMPOSITION

Members of the jury are:

- **Thibaut SKRZYPEK** from *École des Ponts ParisTech (ENPC - École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées), France, who will act as president with quality vote.*
- **Rolando CHACÓN** from *Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC BarcelonaTech), Spain.*
- **Gediminas BLAŽEVIČIUS**, from *Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH), Lithuania.*
- **Ilda RUSI**, from *POLIS University, Albania; EUCEET board member, will act as secretary of the jury and will have voice but no vote.*

More information: <https://euceet.eu/>

2025 EUCEET Association Conference in Budapest, Hungary



-  Theme: Teaching Gen Z Civil Engineers
-  Venue: Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary
-  Date: 16-18 October 2025

Teaching Gen Z Civil Engineers



Join us at the forefront of engineering education! The 2025 EUCEET conference will explore innovative strategies for Teaching Gen Z Civil Engineers. Hosted at the prestigious Budapest University of Technology and Economics in Hungary, this event promises to be a hub of knowledge exchange and collaboration.

<https://www.euceet.eu/home/latest-news>

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7172995479478157312/>

FROM MEMBERS

Brno University of Technology (BUT), Czech Republic



125 Years of Brno University of Technology: the oldest university in Brno celebrates its birthday!

Brno University of Technology (BUT), the oldest university in Brno, is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.



To mark the occasion, Brno will turn red, and a series of events throughout the autumn will showcase what the future of science and technology looks like.

BUT traces its origins back to the 19th century when the Imperial and Royal Bohemian Technical College in Brno was established on **19 September 1899**, with the founding of the Faculty of Civil Engineering. Over the years, both the name and the university itself have evolved from humble beginnings into an **internationally**

recognized institution known for its prestigious education and excellence in technical fields and modern technologies.

BUT's history is tied to many significant personalities, including Armin Delong, the founder of electron microscopy in the Czech Republic; Bohuslav Fuchs, an architect and urban planner; and Otto Wichterle, a scientist and inventor. Among those awarded honorary doctorates by the university are Nikola Tesla, Tomáš and Jan Antonín Baťa, and Czechoslovakia's first two presidents, T.G. Masaryk and Edvard Beneš, whose name the university bore for some time.

Where Technology Excels

What people see as the distant future is already being developed at BUT. Today, the university is achieving outstanding results in science and research, focusing on the **development of technical fields**, as well as **bridging the technical and artistic worlds** through fine arts and architecture, encouraging creativity in research and education. Scientists at BUT are working on **future technologies** like semiconductor technology, microscopy, space and aerospace technology, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, environmental engineering, and the circular economy.

These modern technologies will remain key areas the university will pursue in the future. Alongside them, the university is committed to other crucial goals, such as promoting technical education and

advancing technological excellence and competitiveness for both the Czech Republic and the European Union.

"We see BUT's anniversary not just as a look back at our past but also as an opportunity to present our vision for the university's future," said BUT rector Ladislav Janíček. "One of our most important goals is promoting technical education and technological excellence. Through education, research, and development, we aim to contribute to the positive transformation of the world and meet society's needs. As a technical university, we must ensure that technology serves society and helps tackle the challenges of our time, such as climate change, cybersecurity, and sustainability. At BUT, we've taken on these challenges and are leading new generations of engineers and scientists to create a better future for everyone."

Brno Lights Up for BUT

To celebrate the university's birthday, Brno will light up in BUT's colors. Špilberk Castle and the main streets will glow with red lights, sending a special congratulatory message to the university. A unique [panel exhibition](#) will introduce the public to BUT's strategic areas, scientific achievements, and future technologies. The exhibition will be on display at Moravian Square and Jost (September 16–23), then at Mendel Square (September 23–30).

The celebrations don't end there. In the autumn, BUT experts will invite the public to explore the wonders of science, technology, and art at the Researchers' Night (September 27), where a big surprise awaits visitors if the weather permits. BUT will also be present at the International Industrial Fair (October 8–11), where it consistently wins major awards for its exhibits.

Music and sports enthusiasts can enjoy Hudba z FEKTu (September 18), FASTfest (October 1), or the University Hockey Duel at the Winning Group Arena (October 16). The public will also get a chance to explore the artistic side of technology with the Creative Technology project (September 18–October 27), and the Space4Women debate during Czech Space Week (November 7) will highlight the role of women in the space sector.

The year-long celebration will culminate with the BUT Ball on December 6, a special event for students, staff, alumni, and friends of Brno University of Technology, and the largest ball in the Czech Republic.

For more information about the 125th anniversary of BUT, visit [vut.cz/en/125](https://www.vut.cz/en/125).

AUTHOR [BC. LENKA HUBÁČKOVÁ](#)
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École des Ponts ParisTech, France



THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION IN CIVIL ENGINEERING: WHAT SKILLS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY? DIGITAL TWINS EXECUTIVE MASTER GRADUATION CEREMONY AND ROUND TABLE

The digital revolution in civil engineering: what skills for a more sustainable society?
Graduation ceremony of the Digital Twins Executive Master and round-table discussion with researchers and professionals

In 2023, École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées launched the [Digital Twins Executive Master](#), an innovative program designed jointly with three technology universities, members of the [EELISA Alliance](#) funded by the European Commission. This master's degree is accessible entirely online on a part-time basis (thus compatible with a professional activity) and taught in English. It is dedicated to Digital Twins applied to infrastructures and smart cities. This pioneering course trains engineers and architects in cutting-edge technologies for civil engineering and smart cities. To mark the completion of the first class, which will receive the first European diploma from the EELISA Alliance, the School is organizing a round-table discussion with researchers and professionals on the question of the skills required for the digital and ecological transformation of civil engineering.

Information from <https://ecoledesponts.fr/en/digital-revolution-civil-engineering-what-skills-more-sustainable-society-digital-twins-executive>

THE OFFWIND MASTER'S PROJECT WINS A CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO TRAIN EXPERTS IN FLOATING WIND TURBINES

Named OFFWIND, the Master's program dedicated to floating wind power presented by Institut Polytechnique de Paris was awarded the Compétences et Métiers d'Avenir (CMA) call for expressions of interest launched by France 2030. The program, supported by École nationale des ponts et chaussées and ENSTA Paris, two member schools of the Institute, and ENSTA Bretagne, has been awarded a contribution of 5.7 million euros. It should welcome its first students at the beginning of 2025 academic year.

With global warming and energy tensions looming, the development of offshore wind power has become a strategic global challenge. To meet this challenge, France has embarked on a process of ramping up offshore wind power, which involves training a workforce highly skilled in R&D and the design of high-performance floating systems. This is exactly what the OFFWIND project, launched under the leadership of Institut Polytechnique de Paris, aims to



achieve. Selected as part of the France 2030 investment plan, it has been awarded a €5.7 million grant.

The OFFWIND project draws on the expertise and complementary strengths of three prestigious engineering schools - ENSTA Paris and École nationale des ponts et chaussées (ENPC), two IP Paris member schools, ENSTA Bretagne - as well as industrial partners.

This two-year master's program has been designed by Louis-François Durret, executive director of the energy project management master's program at the School, Jean-Yves Pradillon, lecturer at ENSTA Bretagne and head of the Naval Architecture, Offshore and Marine Renewable Energy courses, Luc Pastur, head of the Offshore Energy course in the 3rd year of the engineering cycle at ENSTA Paris.

This new program, which is open to Europe and the rest of the world, should welcome around 50 students at the start of 2025 academic year. The target is to achieve 250 graduates in five years.

“We have opted for a highly scientific M1-M2 master's degree with a strong R&D, innovation and research focus, which can lead to a PhD and meet the technical challenges of the industry. It will complement the specialized Master's program in Brest, which trains MRE project managers,” explains Jean-Yves Pradillon.

“This Master's program has been designed in close collaboration with OFFWIND's industrial partners, to resolve the technical challenges of offshore wind energy, in terms of anchors, floating platforms, masts, turbines, blades, etc. The challenges are considerable,” adds Luc Pastur.

“The goal is to have 40 GW of offshore wind power by 2050. This kind of development calls for a considerable effort in terms of skills training in all the professions involved in equipment design, installation and operation, as well as the identification of the most favorable areas for offshore wind power,” adds Louis-François Durret.

The program also includes continuing education through the Offshore Wind Skills & Professions certification. It will be supported by France Energies Marines, the Brest-based Institut pour la Transition Énergétique dedicated to marine renewable energies.

Close links with academic partners (vocational high schools or CMQ - Campus des métiers et des qualifications) and universities (IUT) are planned to raise awareness of offshore wind energy professions, but also to send OFFWIND Master's students there to discover aspects taught in certain institutions (maintenance, working at height, for example) and to inspire vocations for engineering professions in students on vocational bachelor's degrees.

The first year of the Master's program will take place at ENSTA Paris, on the IP Paris campus in Palaiseau and at ENPC in Marne-la-Vallée. It will cover all the disciplines required for R&D and design programs in offshore wind energy, with a focus on mechanical engineering and fluid mechanics. The second will take place at ENSTA Bretagne, in Brest, and will focus on a scientific program devoted to the design of all the components of a floating offshore wind farm (platforms, turbines, cables, etc.).

The OFFWIND project also involves numerous industrial groups, including EDF R&D, EDF Renouvelable, SIEMENS Gamesa Renewable Energy, SAIPEM, Technip Energies France, Principle Power France, Navantia, Valeco, Setec...

Information from: <https://ecoledesponts.fr/en/offwind-masters-project-wins-call-expressions-interest-train-experts-floating-wind-turbines>

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, LT



Assoc. Prof. dr. Šarūnas Skuodis, Director of Civil Engineering Research Centre, Vice dean of Civil Engineering Faculty at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, EUCET Vice president sent the following news of interest for members of EUCEET Association:

A new VILNIUS TECH initiative – students help students – begins

A new VILNIUS TECH initiative – students help students - starts in September. In a dedicated course on Moodle, students facing learning difficulties will be able to find voluntary help from other students at the university. Those who are willing and able to share their knowledge will also be able to offer their advice and receive a VILNIUS TECH digital badge.

You can find the Moodle course by clicking on the QR code below and signing in for the course yourself:



Take advantage of the Erasmus+ opportunities

Take advantage of the Erasmus+ opportunities and submit your application for the spring semester of 2024-2025!



All full-degree VILNIUS TECH students can submit applications for study exchange till 22 September 2024!

Please consult the Erasmus+ Faculty coordinator regarding your choices of partner universities.

You can present two applications – for EU and NON-EU universities.

More information: <https://vilniustech.lt/for-international-students/erasmus-studies-and-traineeships-/304165?lang=2#304183>

CAREER PLANNING

VILNIUS TECH students possessing innovative and creative ideas start their career journey even before they graduate from university.

The University's Center for Strategic Partnerships supports them in navigating the job market:

- provides career counselling, prepares for job searching;
- posting internship and job offers;
- organises Career Day GRAVITY, open lectures, meetings with business representatives;
- issues VILNIUS TECH digital badges to recognise skills and competences acquired through non-formal / extracurricular activities;
- Strengthens relationship and experience sharing between students and VILNIUS TECH graduates (Alumni).

At the University, you have the opportunity to receive career planning consultation.

Would you like to register for a meeting? - karjera@vilniustech.lt

Wrocław University of Science and Technology (Wrocław Tech), Poland

Wrocław University
of Science and Technology

Open Science Policy Forums - Enabling a European Open Science and Innovation University

1 October 2024

Hosted by Wrocław Tech and ULisboa, these forums are open to researchers, teachers, students and technical and administrative staff and aim to co-create a white paper that will shape national and European science and innovation policies, promoting new university governance models in Widening countries for sustainable knowledge creation and transfer.



Using ULisboa and Wrocław Tech as testbeds for Portuguese, Polish, and other Widening countries Universities, Unite! open science community will co-create a white paper to support University managers, policymakers and funders of Widening countries in the development of European Open Science and Innovation Universities. The forums will be hybrid, with both face-to-face and online component.

The grand societal challenge we are facing, climate change, can only be tackled through new levels of integration, new science practices and mechanisms of global collaboration among research communities of researchers, students, staff, faculty, citizens, companies, municipalities, citizens and international organizations (e.g., European Commission, the United Nations, and the World Bank). The same applies for all the other societal challenges for finding solutions for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG2030) established by the United Nations.

The adoption of open science practices, principles and goals can improve the quality both internal – academic – and external – societal – processes of learning and creation of new knowledge, increasing trust in science, nurturing innovative and entrepreneurial people, and accelerating research and innovation processes for finding solutions for the achievement of the SDG2030. The institution of open science aims for a sustainable world. Then, further progress on this vision requires promoting an Open Science Recommendation in the European Union, which enables a European Open Science and Innovation Area.

This bottom-up white paper will help to prescribe public science and innovation policy at national and European level. It will provide a strategic pathway for the implementation in Polish, Portuguese and other Widening countries Universities the new open science and innovation University governance model for scientific knowledge co-creation and transfer at University for a sustainable economy, society, and environment: a sustainable world. This white paper will contribute to enabling a European Open Science and Innovation Area among Widening and Non-Widening countries.

Practical information

- **Dates:** October 10, 9:00 – 15:30 (Wrocław time) - October 11, 9:00 – 16:00 (Wrocław time)
- **Location:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Plac Grunwaldzki 11, Building D-21, Room nr 201, Wrocław
- Check [the complete programme here](#).
- **In person registration:** Entry is free, but [registration is required](#).
- Use [the following link for the online participation](#).
- **Info & contact:** biblioteka@pwr.edu.pl

More information about the programme and registration for the ULisboa Open Science Policy Forum coming soon.

The [Unite! Widening Project](#) Open Science Policy Forums will allow ULisboa and Wroclaw Tech to progress towards the development of open science strategies, programmes, and incentives for becoming Unite! Hubs of Excellence on Open Science and Innovation Management.

Wrocław Tech's Open Science Policy Forum focuses on the advancement of:

- Unite! OS White Paper Policy Recommendation 2: Reforming the university reward systems of science and innovation for a sustainable world.
- Unite! OS White Paper Policy Recommendation 5: Enhancing interoperability of university digital infrastructures and accessibility of physical infrastructures for a peaceful humanity.

ULisboa Open Science Policy Forum focuses on the advancement of:

- Unite! OS White Paper Policy Recommendation 3: Promoting transdisciplinary open science support services for an efficient openness in the sharing and production of knowledge and its transfer.
- Unite! OS White Paper Policy Recommendation 4: Incorporating open science competencies in university bachelors, masters, and doctorate levels of education to foster global citizenship.

Background material for participating in the Forum:

[Unite! White paper: A new University open science and innovation governance model and policy for a sustainable world](#)

- This white paper is a practical tool aimed at contributing to the transition from modern science to open science in universities and European Universities Alliances (EUAs) by 2030. This white paper provides evidence-based policy guidelines to enhance efficient open science and innovation management at universities.

[Unite! Handbook of best practices for effective open science and innovation mainstreaming at universities](#)

- This handbook is meant as a practical guide for facilitating researchers, R&I support services, and university managers to transition from modern science to open science. This handbook reveals a high-impact understanding of the best open science and innovation practices on Unite! research teams, exposes Unite! guidelines for the adoption of these practices, and shapes a new governance model for the management of open science and innovation in universities in the digital era. This handbook is a tool for managing open science and innovation in university research teams.

Information from: <https://www.unite-university.eu/unitenews/open-science-policy-forums-enabling-a-european-open-science-and-innovation-university>

Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest (UTCB), Romania



Collaboration between UTCB and FLEFU (L'Association Français Langue Etrangère France Ukraine) and AUF-Europe Centrale et Orientale

6 September 2024

Between August 22nd – 31st, UTCB was the host of a training for teachers who teach French in universities in Ukraine, thus contributing to the consolidation of university francophone in Europe. UTCB was represented in this collaboration by Prof. Alexandru Aldea, President of the Senate. Association de Français Langue Etrangère France Ukraine was represented by Thomas Gronier, Vice President, and AUF by Adrian Tănăsescu, Deputy Regional Director.



Our gratitude goes out to all the teachers who were present, namely:

- Jean Pascal Lyonnet, Trainer and Professor at Université Lumière Lyon 2 and Administrator for Alliance française de Lyon.
- Viktoriia Bozhanova – Académie de génie civil, d'ingénierie et d'architecture de Dnipro
- Svitlana Halazdra – Université Alfred Nobel de Dnipro
- Tetiana Kachanovska – Université nationale Taras Shevchenko de Kyïv
- Tetiana Khaichevska – Université Lessya Oukraïnka de Volhynie – Loutsk
- Kateryna Kharchenko – Académie de génie civil, d'ingénierie et d'architecture de Dnipro
- Olga Kosovych – Université nationale pédagogique Volodymyr Hnatiuk de Ternopil
- Olena Zinchenko – Université nationale technologique d'Odessa

Information from: <https://utcb.ro/collaboration-between-utcb-and-flefu-lassociation-francais-langue-etrangere-france-ukraine-and-auf-europe-centrale-et-orientale/>

FROM PARTNERS

Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties – AECEF



AECEF General Assembly 2025

AECEF will have the next General Assembly comprising Board and President elections on Apr25 in Prague hosted by Czech Technical University.

Information from: <https://aecef.net/>

Academic Cooperation Association



ACA Strategic Summit 2024

8 - 9 October, 2024

Following the annual Strategic Summits of [2021](#), [2022](#), and [2023](#), ACA will host its fourth **Strategic Summit 2024, 8-9 October**, an invitation-only event. The aim of these distinct gatherings is to **connect the top leadership of the member organisations and selected guests on an annual basis**, around **key topics for international higher education**. The exchanges will also highlight the different strategies that member organisations employ to stay relevant, influential, and impactful in national, European, and global arenas.



Though the Summits are invitation-only events, we are happy to share major takeaways and discuss related opportunities. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the ACA Secretariat: secretariat@aca-secretariat.be.

Information from: https://aca-secretariat.be/post_event/aca-strategic-summit-2024/?yearEvent=2024

What's New in Brussels 2025

30 - 31 January 2025

ACA's flagship policy seminar, **What's new in Brussels? Recent developments in European policies and programmes**, will take place on the **30 - 31 January 2025**, in Brussels. Registration information, including the preliminary programme and participant fees, will be coming soon!



Information from: https://aca-secretariat.be/post_event/whats-new-in-brussels-2025-edition/

Erasmus Student Network (ESN)



Strengthening EU-Latin America Collaboration Through Global Mobility



ESN believes in international opportunities for all and views student mobility as a tool to create bridges across world regions. This is particularly true for strengthening the ties between the **EU and Latin America and the Caribbean**.

ESN's Liaison Officers, Board of Directors, and local volunteers are dedicated to promoting ties in higher education and student mobility between the regions, advocating for the Erasmus+ programme, and supporting international students from these areas.

Recent initiatives have showcased ESN's leadership in this effort. In September 2023, ESN's Liaison Officer for the Americas, Martina Bo, participated in the International Conference on Student Loans and Study Abroad in Guanajuato, Mexico, where she highlighted Erasmus+ opportunities and key ESN initiatives. ESN's President Rita Dias joined the Multi-Actor Dialogue Forum in Costa Rica in October 2023 to advocate for stronger EU-Latin American ties in education. Earlier in July, ESN's Global Mobility Coordinator Sara Tagliabracci spoke at the Academic Summit in Spain, focusing on a student-centered approach to internationalisation.

On the ground, ESN's volunteers provide **daily support to Latin American students in Europe** through buddy programmes, welcome days, and collaborations with local embassies. With **over 50,000 ESNcard holders from the Americas** between 2014 and 2024, ESN continues to play a key role in enhancing the mobility experience for students.

Through its active participation in strategic fora and collaboration with civil society, academic institutions, and international organisations, ESN has become **a leading voice in promoting EU-Latin American cooperation**. Whether by engaging in high-level conferences or offering grassroots support

to mobile learners, ESN works to ensure that students from both regions can access international opportunities, **fostering stronger academic ties and cultural understanding.**

More information: <https://www.esn.org/news/strengthening-eu-latin-america-collaboration-through-global-mobility>

The Erasmus Student Network at Asia-Europe Young Leaders Summit 2024

The Erasmus Student Network is proud to have participated in the **ASEF Young Leaders Summit 2024**, held from August 10-18 in Beijing and Hangzhou, China. This prestigious event, organised by the **Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)** in collaboration with the **All-China Youth Federation (ACYF)**, brought together 40 young leaders from 39 countries across Asia and Europe.



As one of the biggest youth organisations, ESN is thrilled to join this dynamic group of young leaders. The theme of this year's Summit, "**Leadership in Society 5.0**," resonated deeply with our mission to **foster ethical, inclusive, and sustainable leadership** in an increasingly interconnected world. Throughout the week, we engaged in a variety of enriching activities, including workshops, panel discussions, and simulation games. These sessions, led by expert trainers, covered critical topics such as **ethical leadership, intercultural learning, digital citizenship, and the societal implications of AI.** The diverse methodologies employed ensured a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for all participants.

One of the highlights of the event was the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the local culture and build lasting connections with fellow participants.

Our two participants, Hazal Sude Satkin and Ilze Ojere, were particularly excited to share insights from our network and learn from the diverse perspectives of other young leaders. The ASEF Young Leaders Summit 2024 not only provided a platform for skill development, but also fostered a network of future leaders committed to making a positive impact in their communities.

We look forward to seeing the innovative projects and initiatives that will emerge from this enriching experience and to continuing our collaboration with ASEF and other international partners to advance the cause of international education and leadership.

Information from: <https://www.esn.org/news/erasmus-student-network-asia-europe-young-leaders-summit-2024>

European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)



79th ECCE General Meeting
09-10 October, 2024
Athens, Greece

The Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE) will host the 79th ECCE General Meeting and the ECCE Executive Board Meeting in the vibrant city of Athens, Greece!

Event Details:

- **Dates:** 9th to 11th October 2024
- **Venue:** TEE premises (Auditorium, 1st floor), Nikis 4, Syntagma, Athens

Exciting Concurrent Events:

1. 5th edition of The BIM Conference: "BIM Beyond 101"

- **Date:** 9th October 2024
- **Location:** Eugenides Foundation, 387 Syggrou Avenue, 17564, P. Faliro
- **Overview:** This esteemed international conference, held under the auspices of ECCE, gathers influential participants from the construction industry. Expect insightful discussions and networking opportunities with executives, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and members from the academic and research community.

2. Special Event: "Engineers' Associations: History, Roles, Interventions, and Perspectives"

- **Date:** Afternoon of 10th October 2024
- **Location:** TEE premises (Auditorium, 1st floor), Nikis 4, Syntagma, Athens
- **Overview:** In the context of the celebration of its 100th anniversary, the Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE) is organising a scientific conference on the history of the engineers' organisations, their role in shaping the engineering profession, their relations with related institutions, such as the Polytechnics and other technical schools, and the scope of their interventions in the public debate. The aim of the conference is to include other European countries and, from the Greek side, to shed light on the path of the TEE, an important institution in the history of the country and largely unknown to the public. The moderator of the conference will be Aris Chatzidakis, ECCE Immediate Past President.
- **Programme of the event**

More information: http://www.ecceengineers.eu/news/2024/79_ecce_meeting.php?id=41

EAIE- European Association for International Education



34th Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition
17-20 September, 2024
Toulouse, France

More information: <https://www.eaie.org/events/toulouse.html>

EU-CONEXUS - European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability



UTCB to host the DigiSTEM International Conference: Innovating Education through Digital Transformation

On the 10th of October, the Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest will be hosting the DigiSTEM International Conference: ***Innovating Education through Digital Transformation***.

The event will focus on an effective use of digital tools and resources in education from both pedagogical and technological perspectives, as well as concrete actions and examples of the usability of technology. The main objective of this event is to enhance HEI educators' technological and pedagogical competencies on a large scale to achieve long-lasting effects in everyday activities of project partners and other European HEIs. Furthermore, it is expected to stimulate research and interaction between mathematicians and engineers in all aspects related to digital tools and educational resources from both pedagogical and technological perspectives.

During the event, the project partners will present the benefits and results of the project, showcasing their experiences in using the methodologies, platform, and guidelines. This element is expected to encourage more teaching and training professionals to use the results of the

project in their education and curricula. During the conference, DigiSTEM will also aim to encourage more people to join the community.

The participants are invited to present their development in the field of STEM subjects. Furthermore, all the presentations will be collected into the project's MOOC. All interested parties in the field of training and education of STEM subjects will be invited to participate and contribute to the conference. The event is open for all interested professionals.



SECTIONS:

- Digital literacy and skills development in education;
- Online and blended learning methodologies;
- Digital tools for assessment and feedback;
- Teacher professional development in digital pedagogy;
- Integration of digital tools in STEM education;
- Technology-enhanced pedagogy across disciplines;
- Gamification of STEM learning experiences;
- Mobile learning and its impact on STEM education;
- Future trends and challenges in innovating education through digital transformation;
- Open educational resources and open pedagogy.

All the information will be updated on the [official website](#). Please make sure you check it regularly.

Information from: <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/2024/07/31/utcb-to-host-the-digistem-international-conference-innovating-education-through-digital-transformation/>

European universities alliances present at the EAIE conference 2024: pioneering journey to transform higher education

Over 20 Alliances, representing more than 200 higher education institutions, will converge in Toulouse for the first time around the European Commission's booth at the European Association for International Education's Conference from 17-20 September 2024. A total of 18 sessions, offered by European Alliances within the programme, along with a dedicated side event, will provide a comprehensive opportunity to explore the reality of this pioneering initiative.

How is Higher Education shaping the future of Europe and charting new pathways for global collaboration? The European Association for International Education's Conference in Toulouse, France

(17-20 September 2024) will provide a unique opportunity to explore answers to this question, and many more, through real-life examples, testimonials, and facts.

This is the very first time that the European Universities Alliances, a flagship initiative of the European Commission and its European Education Area since 2019, will come together and present themselves in a united way at a major international conference, offering the international HE community a chance to better understand the scope of the European Universities Initiative, which is currently co-funding a total of 64 Alliances.

By showcasing their collaborative efforts and energising a series of joint activities, the European Universities Alliances will take the stage as pioneers of a new paradigm of cooperation in Higher Education, paving the way towards a leading role in shaping the global landscape of academia and research. They will also provide insights into their contributions as key actors in a transformative approach aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), positioning Higher Education as the catalyst for building a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable society.

Inspired by the EAIE Conference's theme, *En Route!*, the Alliances will disseminate their objectives and actions, share the impact they have made, and communicate information regarding their results on topics such as mobility and new joint programmes. They will also present the steps taken towards the innovative and unprecedented European Degree, a new type of degree awarded jointly by a group of universities across Europe and automatically recognised within the EU. All these efforts will underline an inspiring model for transnational collaboration, even amidst challenging times of global conflict.

As part of the EAIE conference's programme of activities, the Alliances will offer a series of sessions covering a wide range of subjects, demonstrating their commitment to innovation in higher education and research.

Highlight on the Globalisation Potential of Alliances

Prior to the start of the EAIE Conference, there will be an opportunity to witness the Alliances engage in joint dialogue at a special side event hosted by the Université de Toulouse and the Région Occitanie on 17 September 2024, at the Hôtel de Région Occitanie from 08:45 to 13:00. Titled *Internationalisation of European Universities Alliances: The New Frontiers*, the event will explore why and how European Universities Alliances build strategic partnerships with institutions and stakeholders beyond the European Union. A plenary session will discuss strategies and approaches, and present case studies on how alliances can forge successful international connections. Two other sessions will examine partnerships with Ukrainian institutions amidst conflict and post-war reconstruction, as well as cooperation with African partners. This gathering aims to facilitate dialogue between Alliances, non-

European higher education institutions, and European, national, and regional policymakers to explore the current state of play and possible pathways for the internationalisation of alliances.

The European Universities Alliances are a flagship initiative of the European strategy for universities. They encompass 64 European University Alliances, with more than 560 higher education institutions of all types from across Europe. Check the full list of Alliances by country: <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative/map>.

The EAIE Conference is the most important event dedicated to higher education in Europe and the second largest in the world. Recent venues have been Barcelona (2022) and Rotterdam (2023), where the number of exhibitors and visitors exceeded 5,000 each year, demonstrating that transnational cooperation is now a growing sector of influence and action in an increasingly globalised and interconnected world of higher education systems. More information and the full programme can be found here: <https://www.eaie.org/events/toulouse.html>.

Information from: <https://www.eu-conexus.eu/en/2024/09/05/european-universities-alliances-present-at-the-eaie-conference-2024-pioneering-journey-to-transform-higher-education/>

FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION



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

New publication: Fostering digital education - Emerging practices from the EU

Publication date: 28 June 2024

Author: European Education and Culture Executive Agency

A new report has been published to highlight inspiring practices in digital education across the 27 EU member states.

This report is the second of the series dedicated to promoting inspiring practices in digital education from the 27 European Union member states.



It features two selected practices, though information availability varied across the countries, leading to some differences in analysis, interpretation, and presentation. These national inspiring practices constitute a snapshot of digital education initiatives, which can serve as inspiration for the community supported by the European Digital Education Hub and beyond.

The report serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, educational providers, and other stakeholders involved in shaping the future of education in Europe.

Information from: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/new-publication-fostering-digital-education-emerging-practices-eu-2024-06-28_en

Erasmus+ World Wide Webinar 2024

Publication date: 9 September 2024

Author: European Education and Culture Executive Agency

All you need to know about Erasmus+ exchange and cooperation opportunities for organisations and individuals across the globe.



The European Commission is organising a webinar on Erasmus+ opportunities for exchange and cooperation, from 22 to 24 October 2024.

This webinar is a unique opportunity for potential Erasmus+ participants from non-EU countries to understand how they can benefit from exchange and cooperation with their peers in EU countries and associated Erasmus+ countries.

For more information on the programme and how to join the event, [visit the event's website](#).

New EACEA video: How to find calls for proposals

Publication date: 12 September 2024

Author: European Education and Culture Executive Agency



At EACEA, we publish our calls for proposals on the European Commission's [Funding and Tenders portal](#). To help you find the calls, EACEA has released a new video tutorial. This video will help you navigate the revamped portal, search for and locate calls for proposals, submit your application, and find essential support materials including how to register your organisation, find a partner etc....

Check out the video on our [How to get a grant webpage](#) to get started!

Information from:

ARTICLES from journals, newspaper, magazines

Foreign academic policy role in science diplomacy growing

Author: Michael Gardner

15 July 2023

Joybrato Mukherjee, president of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), has stressed the growing role of foreign academic policy in science diplomacy.

He was presenting the organisation's annual report, which notes that the DAAD-supported academic mobility programmes appear to have almost returned to pre-COVID levels.

"In the past year, we witnessed the return of imperialism and aggressive war to Europe. Russia's attack on Ukraine has brought a delusional pursuit to forcefully adjust history back to our continent. These significant changes have an impact on higher education institutions and the DAAD too," Mukherjee said in Bonn.

Mukherjee, who was re-elected as DAAD president in June, noted that the DAAD had responded quickly to the new situation, putting contacts with Russia on hold and launching support programmes for Ukraine.

Reinforcing research cooperation

He also highlighted the role of foreign academic policy, referring to it as “an increasingly significant and responsible task of science policy”. For the DAAD, this meant reinforcing research cooperation in what was now a “new ‘world disorder’” and stepping up promoting academic exchange and the European Higher Education Area.

Aid programmes for Ukraine accounted partly for an increased budget of €775 million (US\$870 million) for 2022. Extra funding was provided both by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Foreign Office.

“The budget increase was extremely important in this context, to be able to absorb the significant cost increases in Germany and around the world at least to some degree, and to avoid imminent cutbacks for the time being,” said Kai Sicks, DAAD secretary general, adding that intense negotiations had been held with the federal government to ensure the organisation’s future funding.

Sicks noted that with a total of 140,873 students, doctoral candidates, researchers and other higher education staff, international academic mobility was almost back to the pre-pandemic level. In 2022, the DAAD provided funding for 71,051 individuals from Germany and 69,822 individuals from abroad. Support included funding for around 10,000 Ukrainian students, researchers and higher education staff members.

The DAAD has welcomed the National Security Strategy recently presented by the German Federal Government. In the parliamentary debate on the draft strategy, Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock emphasised that Germany’s first National Security Strategy reflected a new understanding of “how we see security against the background of Russia’s brutal war of aggression against Ukraine and a European peace order”.

Security ‘not just a military concept’

Baerbock explained that security could not be understood merely as a military concept but addressed all policy fields. Protecting supply chains and critical infrastructure was not without significance but “creates more security for us because we are no longer dependent on autocracies and dictatorships”. In its draft strategy, the Federal Government views Russia as “the greatest threat to peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic region for the foreseeable future”. China is referred to as a “partner, competitor and systemic rival”.

Mukherjee commented: “The National Security Strategy is an important step towards a comprehensive view of Germany’s security. As the DAAD, we welcome in particular the development of the notion of security towards a holistic and integrated concept.”

“Such an understanding of security is important in particular with regard to foreign academic policy. It has become apparent in these times of crises that science diplomacy and the field of academic cooperation are making reliable and significant contributions to German security.

“Today, science is a ‘hard currency’ in foreign and security policy, and we welcome that the Federal Government has recognised the role of mediating organisations in this context,” he said.

Information from: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20230715213128873>

Amid growth in AI courses, concerns over a skills mismatch**Author: Amber Wang**

23 September 2024

Despite huge government and private funding for expansion in new-generation artificial intelligence and a wave of new AI departments and courses being established at Chinese universities, some experts fear China may soon have an oversupply of AI graduates due to a mismatch between what is taught in universities and the requirements of the high-tech jobs market.

China's universities have rushed to heed the call for AI courses, setting up a wave of new AI schools and relevant majors since 2017.

According to incomplete statistics, 43 AI schools and research institutes can be found across Chinese universities today, while the number of universities offering undergraduate majors in AI exceeds 500.

In late August, the Ministry of Education announced speeded up efforts to incorporate AI into the national curriculum in high schools. Spurred by the government's emphasis on AI, the aspiration to study AI has grown among Chinese students who sit the *Gaokao* university entrance exam each year. However, like many other industries, the tech sector has this year faced rounds of layoffs as China's big tech companies report plans for further downsizing to cut costs. In many cases, entry-level hires are first in the firing line, adversely affecting the prospects of those just starting out.

Buyer's market

Recently, Chinese media have also begun to report on the predicament of young workers, who say the landscape of AI jobs is already a buyer's market.

Qin Zengchang, a professor of AI at Beihang University, says this rings true even for his postgraduate students at Beihang, China's preeminent institution for science and technology.

"Students are getting fewer job offers, although employment is, in principle, not an issue for this industry," he told *University World News*.

However, he cautioned against putting all the blame on universities. The broader "business and societal culture" which favours those with existing experience is not helping fresh graduates' chances, he said. But others point to an alarming mismatch emerging between the skills of new graduates as universities struggle to keep up with new developments in AI and lack resources for research that incurs huge data costs and for state-of-the-art equipment.

The speed at which AI courses are being set up, and a shortage of experts to teach them, has led to experts criticising some universities for **offering courses which may be sub-par**.

A predicted shortage

Until recently, official media painted a picture of an alarming shortage of AI talent. Various studies predicted a sizeable shortfall of four to five million specialist graduates required to meet the needs of a strategic industry expected to grow by leaps and bounds.

Not just the central government in Beijing but also provincial and local governments have recently rolled out generous subsidies to AI enterprises, for example, for rising data centre costs, as part of the country's AI growth strategy.

In Beijing, home to almost 40% of the country's AI companies, the municipal government provided 'computing vouchers' worth RMB57.5248 million (about US\$8 million) to 60 companies in the first half of 2024.

The vouchers can be used to buy time at AI data centres to train and run large language models (LLMs) used in generative AI.

Last year, a **report** by US management consultants McKinsey and Company estimated demand in China would require an extra 6 million skilled AI professionals by 2030 — a five-fold increase from 2022.

This projection points to a staggering shortfall: the talent pool of graduates with relevant qualifications emerging from domestic universities was estimated at just 2 million.

Difficulties recruiting suitable talent

Yet, McKinsey's survey of AI business executives from 102 Chinese companies found more than half of respondents had difficulties finding suitable talent to fill AI-related job vacancies.

According to the report, roles such as data engineers, data architects, and machine learning engineers are the most critical need.

The Chinese government increasingly views talent as vital for technological advancement. President Xi Jinping has repeatedly referred to talent as "the first resource" in China's quest for self-sufficient innovation.

The government's multi-pronged talent plan includes enhancing domestic education, luring back Chinese talent from overseas, and attracting international skills.

During a national science conference in June, Xi emphasised the importance of filling the gaps. "Some key core technologies are controlled by others, and there is a shortage of top scientific and technological talents," he acknowledged.

According to multiple sources who spoke anonymously to *University World News*, universities are constantly struggling for resources. This includes "computing power, data, and models", a young engineer in computing technology, who prefers not to be named, said.

Shortages at universities are often the result of funding constraints, as the high costs of GPUs (graphic processing units) due to export restrictions imposed by the United States, are a major deterrent to upgrading equipment and facilities.

In 2018, the Ministry of Education rolled out the "Innovation Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education Institutions", which outlined the content of the AI major in China.

But in a sign that they understand they need to produce more employable graduates, universities are taking steps to improve the AI curriculum by **strengthening industry linkages** to reflect actual market demand in training and course content.

Industry exposure also helps fill gaps in areas where universities are behind the curve.

High paying jobs but stiff competition

Nonetheless, AI-related jobs are among the most well-paid across industries.

On 3 July, recruitment platform *Zhilian Zhaopin* released the "China Enterprise Recruitment Salary Report", which found that in the second quarter of 2024, AI led all industries in starting salaries, with a monthly average of RMB13,594 (about US\$1,910).

That starting salary represents a 5.3% year-on-year increase compared to the all-industry average of RMB10,313 (about US\$1,449).

Among all AI-related roles, AI engineers in algorithms, C language, embedded software development, and machine vision receive the highest pay, with an average monthly salary of RMB22,003 (US\$3,090).

The report concludes that those employed in AI have strong high-tech capabilities, a high level of education, and high salaries.

Algorithm engineers, software developers and machine learning engineers are most in demand, but the barriers to entry are high.

“Graduates from non-elite universities are often seen to be incapable of the tasks, or they need to have a masters degree at least,” said Wang Mengmeng, who until recently worked at iFLYTEK, a leading Chinese AI company.

After graduating with bachelor and masters degrees in mathematics, Wang initially interviewed for an algorithm engineer position with iFLYTEK, which originated at the University of Science and Technology of China.

But he was offered a role as a software product manager in its EdTech department, where he was responsible for the R&D, design, and operations of relevant AI software.

As with many other tech giants, the “996 culture”, which puts employees under pressure to work overtime (9am to 9pm six days a week) prevails at the company.

iFLYTEK, known for its voice recognition software, had vowed to catch up with OpenAI’s AI model “within a matter of months”. On 28 June, it launched the upgraded version of the “Spark 4.0 LLM”, which it says is on par with GPT-4 Turbo, OpenAI's current top model.

High costs of success

However, the achievement may come at a cost. Less than two weeks before the announcement, news broke of the sudden death of an employee – a senior engineer passed away at the age of 38 after suffering a heart attack.

For Wang, the event touched a raw nerve; in shock, the 29-year-old decided to quit.

On social media platform Weibo, the employee’s family has alleged that the death is related to overwork and filed for compensation from iFLYTEK.

According to media **reports**, an insider told *Southern Metropolis Daily* reporters that iFLYTEK “has handed the matter over to the police”.

In an internal notice to staff, it said the employee had died after falling ill at home and that the company has set up a working group to apply for union assistance funds, contact and handle commercial insurance, assist the employee's family in “handling related follow-up matters and help the family overcome this difficult time”, according to one **report**.

Now back in the job market, Wang described employment prospects as “average” given job cuts amid China’s continuing economic downturn. “Over the past two to three years, there have been fewer openings and higher standards from employers,” she told *University World News*.

Looking ahead, Wang says the emergence of OpenAI or iFLYTEK’s Spark may in fact become a driver of the industry's own redundancies.

“For example, before, you may have needed 10 front-end or back-end personnel to write the code. Now, with the help of OpenAI, you might only need eight, so a couple of people can be cut, and manpower can be reduced,” she said.

There is already some evidence highlighted in official media that the enormous demand for a high-tech workforce is putting jobs in traditional industries at risk, a dual effect that the academic community calls a “structural dilemma” that will require continuous training both at universities and outside them.

Information from: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240923083623170>

Student essays showcase wide range of views on inclusion**Author: Dorothy Lepkowska**

24 September 2024

Bonds between students and lecturers in universities in Brazil need to be stronger if students are to excel in their studies and be given a voice in the learning process, and to help innovate and develop pedagogical practice.

Meanwhile, in Kenya, intensive language courses and bilingual access to course materials would support students who are using languages other than their native tongue for instruction.

The solutions to some of the problems facing students globally were identified and set out by students in this year's Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) Student Essay Competition, the theme of which was inclusion.

Other winning entries tackled such challenges as transgender rights, community engagement and discriminatory admission practices.

Hellena Silva Leão from Brazil called for the creation of forums in which students and professors could discuss issues around participation in learning, while the creation of 'dynamic groups' would increase engagement between student peers.

She said: "For me, inclusion through participation in the learning process is about this: building a space for speaking and a 'network' of connections collectively, from each one's uniqueness.

"I know that such proposals require professors to be open, as well as calling for responsibility and flexibility from the students to participate. However, I believe that by building bonds of trust, students who, for the most part, do not have a voice in the classroom, can participate."

Language barriers

One of the central planks to improving inclusion, expressed by Kenyan student Amanda Wangari, was breaking down language barriers.

She wrote: "Universities should provide online language courses before arrival and intensive language seminars during orientation as well as assign [students] native mentors for practice to help them.

"For successful adaptation and thriving in college, translated summaries of central ideas, lecture recordings with subtitles, extended deadlines, flexible assessments and bilingual tutors' access would be useful to them."

The **essay competition**, which attracted 144 entries from 45 countries, was organised by the Magna Charta Observatory as part of its mission and ethos of extending participation to higher education globally.

The event, which is in its second year, aims to integrate the voices of those who use universities into the debate.

For 2024, the guiding question for the essays was: “What would you change about your higher education experience or environment to make it more inclusive for all who have the ability to benefit from it?”

Students could opt to write about their own experiences of higher education and draw on the initiatives or shortcomings of the institutions in which they are enrolled.

The five winners and their essays were, in alphabetical order of country:

- Hellen Silva Leão, Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre (UFCSPA), Brazil – *Participation and relationship between students and educators as a means of inclusion in the higher education environment.*
- Samantha Lee, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada – *How community engaged learning opportunities redefine and reclaim the meaning of education and value-free learning in a neoliberal institution.*
- Daniel Adeagbo, University of Lagos, Nigeria – *Inclusive Higher Education for All: Targeting the most vulnerable among us.*
- Fatima Masood, COMSATS University Islamabad, Pakistan – *A comprehensive report on strategies for enhancing diversity, equity and inclusivity in higher education in Pakistan.*
- Ignacy Maliszewski, Uniwersytet SWPS Warszawa, Poland – *Is ‘better’ enough?*

A further essay, *Improving Inclusion in Higher Education: Key Changes for a More Equitable Academic Experience*, by Wangari, from United States International University-Africa in Kenya, was Highly Commended.

Transgender students

Maliszewski’s contribution was inspired by the inequalities he witnessed among transgender students, including the death of a friend, which highlighted the lack of mental health resources available to students.

He told *University World News*: “Writing this essay gave me the space, and in a way, the permission, to speak up about some of the things that don’t always work well in universities.

“In Poland, transgender people have to sue their parents for ‘incorrectly assigning gender at birth’ in order to change their name. It’s a lengthy process where they have to prove their true gender identity in front of a judge and medical professionals. Parents have the right to object.

“Many trans and non-binary students drop out when they’re told they can’t use their chosen name in class or within school systems. The lack of proper training for university administrative staff can lead to painful, discriminatory situations.

“Universities may be hesitant to address transgender issues for fear of losing funding or damaging their reputation.”

Meanwhile, Lee, a student of life science and communication at McMasters University in Ontario, Canada, wrote about the importance of community engagement as part of the university experience.

Her essay examines the interdisciplinary skills students acquire when they are involved in community engagement. This might include working with local people on issues of importance, such as homelessness, for example, or gathering information for use in research on particular challenges that affect communities.

Lee discovered how classroom approaches could be applied to help her to respond to real-life situations, during which she has developed skills such as leadership, time management and communication.

She said: “I was surprised, excited and honoured to be one of the winners and to have this opportunity to share my own experiences. Community engagement is an aspect of my education that is very important to me and offers real possibilities to make the higher education experience more inclusive and about more than just a qualification.”

Expert judges

The competition was judged by five experts from around the world. Among them was Professor Catharine Stimpson, professor and dean emerita of the Graduate School of Arts and Science, New York University, United States and member of the governing council of the Magna Charta Observatory.

She said: “When judging the entries we looked at relevance to the theme, persuasive arguments, cogency and the way in which each author used their personal experiences to develop their essays.

“There was a real freshness of voice and individuality among the winners, who were often dealing with issues of which we, as judges, had little or no previous knowledge or experience.”

Stimpson said diversity of entries from so many countries signalled the challenges faced by many learners in gaining access to higher education.

“I was struck by the hoops through which some of these students had to jump to access and succeed at university,” she added.

“This is why all the entries deserve our attention, understanding and readership. Furthermore, their use and command of English was a credit to them as this was not necessarily their native language, and yet they articulated their opinions and arguments so well.

“It was an honour and privilege to read their stories and to be a part of this judging process.”

The Magna Charta Universitatum has existed since 1988, and now has almost 1,000 signatories from around the world, committed to working towards, and promoting, academic freedom and autonomy in higher education.

A range of views and experiences

David Lock, secretary general of the MCO, said the competition had grown significantly since last year when there were 97 entries from 28 countries. It is run in conjunction with the Global Student Forum and the European Student Union.

“The judges were extremely impressed with the entries, and we were struck by the number of lenses through which the students saw or addressed the question of inclusion,” Lock said. “It was a fantastic range of views and experiences.

“Hearing what they have to say is very important as some of the entrants will be on a clear academic trajectory, taking them on to becoming university lecturers or the leaders of tomorrow in higher education.

“We want to make them aware, through the essay competition, of the ways in which this sector serves societies, and how important it is to have systems in place to ensure they are inclusive and offer access to all.”

Each of the winners will receive an expenses-paid trip to a World Access to Higher Education Network conference in Oxford, UK, in December. The winning essays are accessible on the [MCO website](#), and all entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

Information from: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240924190902425>

How science diplomacy can drive progress towards the SDGs

Author: Elias Ngalame

26 September 2024



Science experts have emphasised the need for new technologies to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals become a reality in Africa. A key means to achieve this is through science diplomacy that involves the sharing of technological knowledge across different countries, ramping up investments in modern education systems, and encouraging gender inclusive participation in science and research for the benefit of humanity.

The call was made at a workshop held on 23 September at the Italian Cultural Institute of New York under the theme: ‘How science and innovation accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals’.

The workshop, co-organised by the Women in Science Diplomacy Association (WiSDA) and the National Council of University Research Administrators, or NCURA, was part of the 2024 Science Summit at the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The workshop brought together leading experts and thought leaders in science and diplomacy to explore how innovation and scientific research can drive progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The experts emphasised the key role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in ensuring economic growth, improving well-being, mitigating the effects of climate change, and safeguarding the environment. Africa, they said, must harness its STI potential by strengthening national, regional and global knowledge exchange, promoting entrepreneurship and investing in research.

Stronger collaboration networks

“Scientists in Africa need to build stronger collaborative networks through science diplomacy that drives innovation and progress, intensifying interactions between the private sector, consumers, academia, national government and multi-lateral institutions,” Dr Peggy Oti-Boateng, executive director of the African Academy of Sciences, said in a virtual address at the workshop.

Science diplomacy should be accelerated in Africa through the use of scientific collaborations among nations to accelerate innovations aimed at addressing common development problems and driving the quest for new technology, she said.

A **recent study** shows that, on the heels of the Agenda 2030 programme, scientists are increasingly relying on innovative solutions to achieve the SDGs.

“Progress towards some SDGs lags seriously behind, especially in low-income countries, where the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent crises have been particularly severe. Despite these challenges, the SDGs are still achievable,” the study notes.

The exchange at the workshop emphasised the importance of inclusive science diplomacy that connects a broad range of stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, diplomats, administrators, and industry leaders. It also examined the key role of women in science diplomacy and pathways towards greater gender inclusivity.

“Women remain significantly under-represented in the sciences, thus the need to promote gender inclusivity within the science diplomacy framework,” noted Evelina Santa-Kahle, science counsellor at the Germany Embassy in Washington, and co-founder of WiSDA.

She called for a new commitment from stakeholders to make the necessary changes in gender inclusivity.

“Imagine how far and how quickly we could go if today’s political leaders work with scientists, putting their full weight behind an urgent push to train more women in the sciences,” she said.

A **2024 UNESCO report** shows that women make up only 35% of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates, and hold only a quarter of science, engineering and ICT (information, communication and technology) jobs. It calls on stakeholders to ensure women participate on equal terms in shaping the world’s ongoing digital transformation, making sure that technology works for everyone and takes into consideration the needs of all humanity.

The need for more and equitable investment in STEM in Africa was highlighted in yet another gathering in New York, the Summit of the Future.

Academic experts are urging governments to close the “bridgeable” gap between current policies and what is required to meet the SDGs. They say this requires an accelerated rollout of more training, working hand in glove with universities in shaping science diplomacy and fostering development.

Professor Emmanuel Yenshu Vubo, social scientist and dean of the faculty of social science at the University of Buea in Cameroon, told *University World News*: “Higher education institutions play a crucial role in advancing science diplomacy by fostering research, education and innovation while serving as hubs for international collaboration and knowledge exchange. Governments should provide the enabling environment for universities to play their role by investing in the needed infrastructure, awarding of scholarships and financing research.”

The implementation of standards, regulations and good governance practices across different regions will reinforce cooperation for the achievement of SDGs, he said.

Information from: <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240925162410542>

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

International Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Energy and Renewable Energy Systems (ICAIERESYS - 25)

1- 2 February, 2025

Kowloon City, Hong Kong



International Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Energy and Renewable Energy Systems (ICAIERESYS-25) at Kowloon City, Hong Kong, on 1st Feb - 2nd Feb'2025 is delighted to welcome professionals, academicians, and practitioners from the field to attend high-level conferences. This event will welcome experts from national and international locations connected to the field.

The atmosphere of active questioning and engagement will benefit the event and all participants. Attendance at these conferences will level up your CV and prove helpful in future endeavours. Moreover, it will give an insight into where all the nations stand concerning advancements and recent trends in **Artificial Intelligence for Energy and Renewable Energy Systems**. An event full of socialisation, opportunities, information, and specialists should not be missed. You can discuss your career, fields, and research and get an evaluation from participants and speakers.

Call for Paper

In any event, a Call for Paper is a scientific session of paramount importance. In this section, researchers, scientists, and experts present their work to other conference attendees. This can be termed a non-professional review by peers, which is of substantial significance. Moreover, it helps the presenter enhance their work so that their research becomes more refined. Early amendments and listening to professional suggestions can benefit the research and the researcher's professional development.

These sessions are not only helpful to the person presenting the research but also for the evaluators and listeners. It helps everyone imbibe the latest information about their respective areas of expertise, know about upcoming developments, learn from reviews, and grasp high-quality information.

Reviewing the research at this scientific session benefits everyone involved in the topic. Moreover, this leads to relevant topics for discussion, boosts engagement, and opens doors to new fields in the subject.

Important Dates

Pre-Enrollment deadline	2 nd January 2025
Paper submission deadline	17 th January'2025
Last date of registration	17 th January'2025
Date of Conference	1 st Feb - 2 nd Feb'2025

More information: <https://www.iierd.org/events/index.php?id=2706958>

International Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering (I2C2E - 2025)

08-09 February, 2025

Perth, Australia



International Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering (I2C2E - 2025) is a prestigious event organized with a motivation to provide an excellent international platform for the academicians, researchers, engineers, industrial participants and budding students around the world to SHARE their research findings with the global experts. 1666th I2C2E 2025 will be held in Perth, Australia during 08th-09th Feb 2025.

The key intention of I2C2E2025 is to provide opportunity for the global participants to share their ideas and experience in person with their peers expected to join from different parts on the world. In addition, this gathering will help the delegates to establish research or business relations as well as to find international linkage for future collaborations in their career path.

Call Paper - I2C2E

The organizing committee invites academicians, researchers, PhD candidates and practitioners worldwide to submit full papers to **RW- I2C2E**.

I2C2E is a premier forum for presenting of new research findings. This conference brings together avid researchers from local and foreign universities.

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

Civil Engineering:

- Structural engineering
- Construction engineering
- Water resources engineering
- Environmental engineering
- Municipal or urban engineering
- Urban Infrastructure
- Transportation Engineering
- Railway systems engineering
- Forensic engineering
- Geotechnical engineering
- Surveying
- Design Research considers the processes of shaping and making of places
- Educational Research examines the pedagogies of civil engineering and related fields
- History of civil engineering

Environmental Engineering:

- Environmental Science and Technology
- Environmental dynamics
- Meteorology
- Hydrology
- Geophysics
- Atmospheric physics
- Physical oceanography
- Global environmental change and ecosystems management
- Climate and climatic changes
- Global warming
- Ozone layer depletion
- Carbon capture and storage
- Biofuels
- Integrated ecosystems management
- Satellite applications in the environment
- Environmental restoration and ecological engineering
- Habitat reconstruction
- Biodiversity conservation
- Deforestation
- Wetlands
- Landscape degradation and restoration
- Ground water remediation
- Soil decontamination
- Eco-technology
- Bio-engineering
- Environmental sustainability
- Resource management
- Economic instruments
- Modelling and decision support tools
- Institutional development
- Transboundary cooperation
- Management and regulation of point and diffuse pollution
- Monitoring and analysis of environmental contaminant
- Ground water management
- Wastewater and sludge treatment
- Nutrients removal
- Suspended and fixed film biological processes
- Anaerobic treatment
- Process modelling
- Sludge treatment and reuse
- Fate of hazardous substances
- Industrial wastewater treatment
- Advances in biological, physical and chemical processes
- On site and small scale systems
- Storm-water management
- Air pollution and control
- Emission sources
- Atmospheric modelling and numerical prediction
- Interaction between pollutants
- Control technologies
- Air emission trading
- Solid waste management
- Waste minimization

- Life cycle analysis
- Environmental systems approach
- Renewable sources of energy-energy savings
- Clean technologies
- Sustainable cities
- Health and the Environment
- Health related organisms
- Hazardous substances and detection techniques
- Biodegradation of hazardous substances
- Toxicity assessment and epidemiological studies
- Quality guidelines, environmental regulation and monitoring
- Indoor air pollution
- Water resources and river basin management
- Regulatory practice, water quality objectives standard setting, water quality classification
- Public participation
- Optimization of collection systems
- Recycling and reuse
- Waste valorization
- Technical aspects of treatment and disposal methods (landfilling, thermal treatment etc)
- Leachate treatment
- Legal, economic and managerial aspects of solid waste management
- Management of hazardous solid waste
- Water treatment and reclamation
- Advanced treatment of water and secondary effluents (membranes, adsorption, ion exchange, oxidation etc)
- Disinfection and disinfection by- products
- Management of water treatment residuals
- Aesthetic quality of drinking water (taste, odors)
- Effect of distribution systems on potable water quality
- Reuse of reclaimed waters

Important Dates

Early Bird Registration	25th December 2024
Paper submission deadline	24th Jan 2025
Last date of registration	29th Jan 2025
Date of Conference	08th - 09th February 2025

Information from: <https://researchworld.org/Conference/21453/I2C2E/>

International Conference on Civil, Mechanical, Production and Industrial Engineering (ICMPIE-2024)

17-18 February, 2025

Sydney, Australia

International Conference on Civil, Mechanical, Production and Industrial Engineering (ICMPIE), which will be held in **Sydney, Australia**, on **17th-18th February 2025** to share ideas on globally trending technologies in Civil, Mechanical, Production, and Industrial Engineering.

The key motive of **ICMPIE – 2024** is to provide a world-class platform for the global participants to share their ideas and experience in person with their peers expected to join from different parts of the world. In addition, this gathering will help the delegates to establish research or business relations as well as to find international linkage for future collaborations in their career path. We hope that **ICMPIE – 2024** outcome will lead to significant contributions to the knowledge base in these up-to-date scientific fields in scope.

The Organizer of this Conference - [IRF Conference \(International Research Forum for Engineers and Researchers\)](#) is a unique global forum for researchers with cross-disciplinary interests to meet

and interact has been organizing various conferences, seminars, scientific events since 2012 across the globe. Research papers using theoretical, quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods approaches are encouraged as are those using interdisciplinary approaches.



IRF Conference is a **non-profit organization** that promotes the Engineering and Technology, related latest developments and issues to be discussed and experimented through interactions amongst the researchers and academician across the globe at a common platform.

IRF Conference have the following objectives:

- Globalize the education so that Research scholars from different regions can communicate with each other through a common platform.
- Publish Journals in different areas of Research for sharing their research work.
- Organizing Conferences (National/International) for providing common platform so that researchers can gain knowledge in their area of interest by interacting with the experts.
- Organize Workshops/Seminars for upgradation and awareness of latest technologies.
- Help students, faculty and researchers in Engineering, Social Sciences, Management, Pharmaceutical and Medical Sciences related areas so that they can enhance their knowledge in different areas of research.
- Cooperate with institutions of higher learning in any part of the country having objectives similar to those of the society.

Call for Paper

ICMPIE is the premier forum for the presentation of new advances and research results in the fields of Civil, Mechanical, Production and Industrial Engineering. The conference will bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and scholars in the domain of interest from around the world. Topics of interest for submission include, but are not limited to:

Mechanical & Civil Engineering:

- Simulation of Manufacturing Processes
- Advances in Structural Engineering
- Finite Element Analysis, CFD
- Concrete Technology
- Virtual Prototyping
- Highways and Pavements
- Smart Materials & Nanomaterials
- Hydraulics and Fluid Machinery
- Micro Manufacturing
- Remote Sensing and GIS applications
- Biomedical Materials & Composite Materials
- Town and Country Planning
- CAD / CAM / CAE / Mechatronics
- Geo-techniques & Geo-informatics
- Automation & Robotics
- Environmental Modeling & Technologies
- Artificial Neural Network
- Structural Optimization
- Fuzzy Logic System
- Earth science and Earthquake Engineering
- Compact Heat Exchangers
- Nanotechnology in Construction Engineering
- Solar Photo -Voltaic Cells
- Innovative Solutions for Corrosion Prevention
- IC Engines & Renewable Energy
- Intelligent Transport System
- Co-Generation System
- Rain water Harvesting
- Lean Manufacturing & Reverse Engineering
- Green Building Design

Industrial Engineering:

- Data and Analytics
- Decision Analysis and Methods
- E-Business and E-Commerce
- Engineering Economy and Cost Analysis
- Engineering Education and Training
- Healthcare Systems and Management
- Human Factors
- Information Processing and Engineering
- Intelligent Systems
- Manufacturing Systems
- Operations Research
- Production Planning and Control
- Project Management
- Quality Control and Management
- Reliability and Maintenance Engineering
- Safety, Security and Risk Management
- Service Innovation and Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Systems Modeling and Simulation
- Technology and Knowledge Management

Conference Dates:

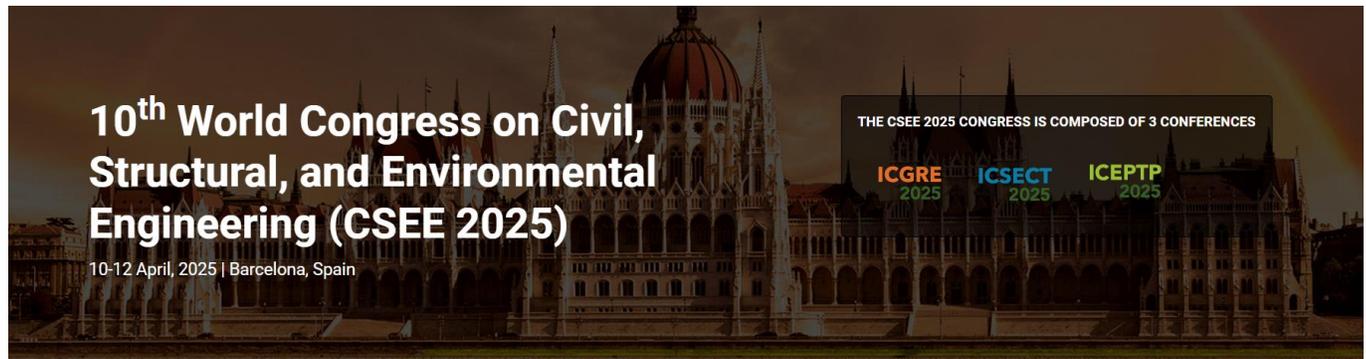
Paper submission deadline 26th January, 2025
Last date of registration 02nd February, 2025
Date of Conference 17th February, 2025

Information from: <https://irfconference.org/Conference/26540/ICMPIE/>

10th World Congress on Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering (CSEE 2025)

10-12 April, 2025

Barcelona, Spain



The 10th World Congress on Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering (**CSEE 2025**) will be delivered in-person in Barcelona, Spain and virtually, providing the opportunity of online presentation for the people who cannot travel for any reason. Attendees will be able to connect with researchers from across the globe and network in-person or virtually. The registration fee for virtual participation is reduced.

The congress proceedings will be indexed by Scopus, Google Scholar and Semantic Scholar.

CSEE is aimed to become one of the leading international annual congresses in the fields of civil, structural, and environmental engineering. The congress is composed of 3 conferences. While each conference consists of an individual and separate theme, the 3 conferences share considerable overlap, which prompted the organization of this congress.

[ICGRE 2025](#) - 10th International Conference on **Geotechnical Research and Engineering**

[ICSECT 2025](#) - 10th International Conference on **Structural Engineering and Concrete Technology**

[ICEPTP 2025](#) - 10th International Conference on **Environmental Pollution, Treatment and Protection**

This congress will provide excellent opportunities to the scientists, researchers, industrial engineers, and university students to present their research achievements and to develop new collaborations and partnerships with experts in the field.

Paper Topics

Interested authors, researchers, and industrial experts are invited to submit their papers to the conference that best resonates with their technical background. At the same time, attendees are permitted, and encouraged, to attend talks from co-located conferences.

[ICGRE 2025](#)

Geotechnical Research and Engineering

- Dams and Tunnelling
- Engineering Geology
- Geoenvironmental related topics

- Geohazards and Risk Assessment
- Geotechnical Infrastructure
- Geosynthetics and Geoproducts
- Marine Geotechnics
- Mining and Geotechnics
- Design and Modelling
- Soil and Rock Mechanics and Characterization
- Sustainable Development, Education and Safety
- Site Investigation and Terrain Characterization
- Transportation Geotechnics, Engineering and Technology
- Asphalt Products and Properties

ICSECT 2025

Structural Engineering and Concrete Technology

- Beach Erosion and Shoreline Protection
- Buildings Energy Management
- Building Optimal Design
- Composites and Construction
- Concrete Products and Specifications
- Construction Materials
- Construction Safety and Standards
- Emergency, Risk Management, and Disaster Preparation
- Financial Consideration and Construction
- Green Design
- Harbor Design
- Maintenance Management
- Marine Structures
- Modelling and Simulation
- New and Advanced Construction Materials
- New Technologies in Structural Design and Construction
- Roofing and Road Materials
- Seismic Control
- Special Structures
- Underground Structures

ICEPTP 2025

Environmental Pollution, Treatment and Protection

- Biological Diversity
- Biotechnology and Environment
- Desalination
- Environmental Risk Management and other related topics
- Environmental Protection
- Environmental Sustainability and Development
- Fossil Fuels and Renewable Energy
- Globalwarming and Climate Change

- Groundwater Issues
- Global Warming and its Consequences
- Health and Environment
- Industrial Waste Issues and Management
- Oil Spills
- Pollution and Health Issues
- Soil Pollution and Treatment
- Urbanization and Related Issues
- Water, A Vital Component
- Waste Management
- Waste Pollutions and Management
- Wastewater Pollution and Treatment
- Water Pollution and Treatment

IMPORTANT DATES:

OCT 4, 2024	Extended Paper Submission Deadlines
NOV 1, 2024	Extended Notification to Authors
NOV 29, 2024	Extended Early-Bird Registration

Information from: <https://cseecongress.com/>

Computational Civil Engineering (CCE) 2025

7-9 May, 2025

Iasi, Romania

**About**

Continuous evolving labour market influenced by the present world-wide challenges and crisis is strongly demanding for adequately qualified work force and innovative solutions competing for market success.

Research and innovation in constructions' related fields requires enhancing four dimensions of the transversal skills and competences: digital, green, resilience, and entrepreneurial skills.

Computational Civil Engineering (CCE) 2025 is dedicated to the research outputs feeding high quality education and training, fostering collaboration and cooperation among research groups with wide scientific interests, on the relevant topics recently endorsed by European Project calls within the 2021-2027 budgeted actions.

Topics in construction related fields

- ***Computational Methods in Structural Engineering and Fluid Dynamics***
- ***Numerical Analysis of Civil Engineering Structures***
- ***Artificial Intelligence in Civil Engineering***
- ***Digital Technologies***
- ***Building Information Modelling***
- ***Structural Topology Optimisation and 3D Printing***
- ***Greening Future in Civil Engineering***
- ***Power and Energy Systems for Civil Engineering***
- ***Managing changes in AEC industry***

Traditionally, CCE has been mainly organized, by the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Building Services of Iasi Iasi and “Matei Teiu-Botez” Academic Society in the previous editions. Recent joint research work started with the contribution of various Faculties of “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi (TUIASI) and thus beginning with CCE 2023 was jointly organized by TUIASI and “Gheorghe Asachi” University Foundation. The conference is organized once every 2 years since 2015, with physical attendance in the beautiful city of Iasi with the venue in the historical building designed by Gustave Eiffel in the early XXth century Grand Hotel Traian.

Call for papers

- Full paper submission deadline: **January 15th, 2025**
- Notification of full paper acceptance: **May 1th, 2025**
- Program information: **May 1st, 2025**
- Conference dates: **May 7th – 9th, 2025**

Fees Deadline

- Early registration: **March 30st, 2025**
- Regular registration: **April 28th, 2025**
- Late registration: **May 5th, 2025**

More information: <https://www.cce.ci.tuiasi.ro/>

15th Annual International Conference on Civil Engineering

23-26 June, 2025

Athens, Greece



The [Civil Engineering Unit](#) of ATINER is organizing its **15th Annual International Conference on Civil Engineering, 23-26 June 2025, Athens, Greece** sponsored by the [Athens Journal of Technology & Engineering](#).

The aim of the conference is to bring together academics and researchers of all areas of Civil Engineering other related areas.

Areas of interest include (but are not confined to):

- Structural engineering;
- Construction engineering;
- Water resources engineering;
- Environmental engineering;
- Municipal or urban engineering;
- Urban Infrastructure;
- Transportation Engineering;
- Railway systems engineering;
- Forensic engineering;
- Geotechnical engineering;
- Surveying;
- Design Research considers the processes of shaping and making of places;
- Educational Research examines the pedagogies of civil engineering and related fields' History of civil engineering.

Consistent with the theme of ATINER's small academic events, all programs may include a few sessions on current topics in education and research.

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Abstract Submission Deadline | 19 November 2024 |
| ▪ Acceptance of Abstract | 4 weeks after submission |
| ▪ Submission of full paper | 26 May 2025 |
| ▪ Conference date | 23 June 2025 |

More information: <https://www.atiner.gr/civileng>

CALENDAR

Date	Event	Place
11-13.09.2024	Third National Conference on Wind Engineering (3NCWE)	Bucharest, ROMANIA



<https://3ncwe.ariv.ro/>

03.10.2024	Build Better Before the Earthquake Comes	Bucharest, ROMANIA
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<https://assisisociety.org/event/build-better-before-the-earthquake-comes-bucharest-romania/>

18.10.2024	17 th EUCEET Association General Assembly	Paris, FRANCE
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<https://www.euceet.eu/>

Date	Event	Place
12-17.11.2024	XVII Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	Pucón, CHILE



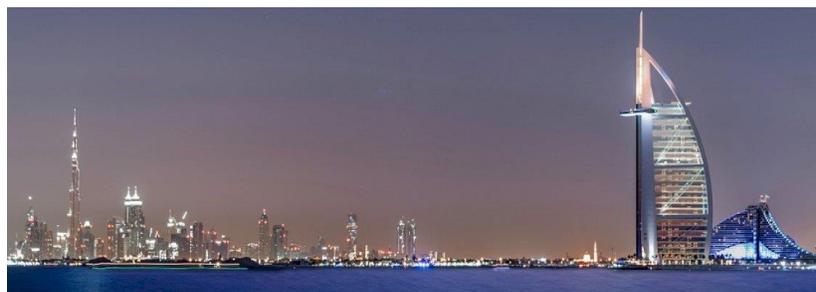
<https://panamgeochile2024.cl>

20-24.11.2024	5th International Conference on Transportation Geotechnics	Sydney, AUSTRALIA
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<https://www.ictg2024.com.au>

20-21.12.2024	ICCDPP 2024: 18. International Conference on Curriculum Development, Practices and Procedures	Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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https://waset.org/curriculum-development-practices-and-procedures-conference-in-december-2024-in-dubai?utm_source=conferenceindex&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=listing

Date	Event	Place
07-09.03.2025	2025 12 th International Conference on Geological and Civil Engineering	Sapporo, JAPAN



<https://cseecongress.com/>

28-29.03.2025	International Conference on Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Civil and Mechanical Engineering (ICECCME - 25)	Oruro, BOLIVIA
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<https://sairap.org/conf/index.php?id=2776539>

10-12.04.2025	10 th World Congress on Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering (CSEE 2025)	Barcelona, SPAIN
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<https://cseecongress.com/>

Date	Event	Place
13.04.2025	10 th International conference on Structural Engineering and Concrete Technology (ICSECT 2025)	Barcelona, SPAIN



<https://icsect.com/>

01-01.05.2025	International conference on Teaching, Education and new learning Technologies (ICTENLT)	Sharjah, UAE
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<https://arsss.org/Conference/44468/ICTENLT/>

21-23.08.2025	2 nd International Conference on Civil Engineering: Innovations & Advancements	Paris, FRANCE
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<https://icceia.com/>

Date	Event	Place
01.07.2025	International conference on Teaching, Education and new learning Technologies(ICTENLT)	Munnar, INDIA



<https://arsss.org/Conference/48595/ICTENLT/>

16-18.10.2025	2025 EUCEET conference will explore innovative strategies for Teaching Gen Z Civil Engineers	Budapest, HUNGARY
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SAVE THE DATE
FOR 2025 EUCEET CONFERENCE!

Teaching Gen Z Civil Engineers



<https://www.euceet.eu/>