

# BRIDGING THE GAP

## Designing Higher Education Policies through Inclusion Narratives

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As an alliance of ten European like-minded universities, EUTOPIA's project is to provide equal learning opportunities for all groups of students and especially those who are disadvantaged because of their gender, race, ethnicity, immigrant background, economic status, disability, and so on. To this end, the project seeks to achieve two goals: develop recommendations and initiatives promoting equality and inclusion for the disadvantaged groups, and jointly build expertise on how the European principles of openness and inclusion could be applied to Higher Education institutions in all European regions, including the Western Balkans. By ensuring inclusion and participation, we aim at creating a university of the future open to everyone. Inclusive higher education contributes to individual development and well-being and increases the educational opportunities. It also drives convergence upwards in higher education itself, thus creating a dynamic

virtuous spiral. Higher Education institutions can act as direct role models for the broader society and help the transformative development of social justice and inclusivity. Each day EUTOPIA walks one step closer in implementing inclusivity to its programmes.

The seminar *Bridging the Gap: Designing Higher Education Policies through Inclusion Narratives*, intends to bring in “expert by experience” voices (students and external stakeholders, including other alliances and a member of the European Parliament), which narratives are important to understand the shared meaning of disadvantage, develop recommendations and initiatives, design strategies, methods, research programmes, and raise awareness of diversity. With their help EUTOPIA aims to become best-equipped to sharpen concrete engagement, structural modelling, real-life benefits, and a road-map for a future open inclusive academy.

## PROGRAMME



### EXPERIENCES OF INCLUSION

**09:30** Welcome words

**Luciana RADUT-GAGHI**, Vice president, CY Cergy Paris University, France

**09:45** Overview of the work done by EUTOPIA on Inclusion during the pilot phase of the European Universities Initiative

**Catherine GILLO-NILSSON**, University of Gothenburg

**Petra VIDEMŠEK**, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

**10:15** Expertise by Experience

**Mariam OUARTI**, student at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

**10:45** Coffee break

**11:00** The experience of integration

**Pierre KOMPANY**, Major of Ganshoren, Belgium

PhD Honoris Causa from Vrije Universiteit Brussel

**11:30** Why is Inclusion an essential European value?

**Marie-Pierre VEDRENNE**, Member of the European Parliament

**12:00** General conversation

**13:00** Lunch break

### INCLUSION IN THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCES

**14:30** EUTOPIA M.O.R.E. – *Doing* inclusion in EUTOPIA

**Karen CELIS**, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

**15:00** Bridging the gap: Inclusion and Higher Education in Global 2030 Agenda. The role of European University Initiatives across Europe and beyond

**Ágnes SAROLTA FAZEKAS**, ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary, CHARM-EU alliance.

**15:30** Closing the mobility gap: some examples of EPICUR actions for a qualitative and inclusive education

**Alison GARNIER-RIVERS**, University of Strasbourg, France

**16:00** From local to global: reflections and evolutions about Inclusion in the CIVIS alliance

**Marie WITTAMER**, Aix-Marseille University, France

**16:30** General conversation

**17:15** Closing words

**Magali JAOUEN**, Vice-president, CY Cergy Paris University, France

## BRIDGING THE GAP

Designing higher education policies through **INCLUSION** narratives

## SPEAKERS



**LUCIANA RADUT-GAGHI**

Luciana RADUT-GAGHI is Vice-President for the European alliance at CY Cergy Paris Université. Habilitated Associate Professor in Information and Communication Sciences since 2011, she has extensive experience in the coordination of international research networks (LEMEL coordination since 2014). Her expertise is built on the study of the place of the scientific expert in the public space, particularly in relation with climate change controversies, the media discourse in the public space, on specific topics like Europe, history and commemorations.



**CATHERINE GILLO-NILSSON**

Catherine Gillo-Nilsson is the University of Gothenburg's coordinator for EUTOPIA on Inclusion as part of her mission on coordinating UG's efforts on widening access, participation and inclusion in higher education. Catherine holds Master degrees in scientific subjects education, Africa and international development cooperation and social science. She has amongst others set up varied peer helping and mentoring schemes in higher education, facilitated "train the trainers" workshops in the field, as well as intercultural educational modules and stereotype reduction workshops within and outside the university.



**PETRA VIDEMŠEK**

Petra Videmšek is an associate professor at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work. She is a Vice-dean for Research, Development, and Doctoral Studies in the Faculty of Social Work and a supervisor in the field of social welfare. Her main research interests are social inclusion in mental health and disability, promoting service user involvement in research and education, advocacy for people with mental illness and learning disabilities who experience sexual abuse, and developing supervision in social work. She currently leads Work Package "Promoting inclusion and equal societies" of EUTOPIA and the training programme for qualifying supervisors in social care at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work. She is the author, author of numerous articles and books on inclusion, experimental knowledge, and dealing with the disabled.



**MARIAM OUARTI**

Mariam Ouarti is an Alumnus of the Nasa Advanced Space Academy. Her leadership position as a commander in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center both during Space Camp and U.S Aviation Challenge gave her an early insight into endorsing inclusion among her diverse international team. Her experience in the White House (2016) and in the Cop22 (2017) as a representative of the young scientists, as well as her work with Syrian refugee students emerged her in the issue of access and inclusion in Academia. Being herself a student who encountered discrimination on four different continents, while also suffering from a mobility disability, Mariam is deeply concerned about inclusion in Higher Education. Her involvement in this cause made her shift from studying medicine to studying sociology and political science. She is currently a student in the Social Sciences program held by the VUB and UGent.

## SPEAKERS



**PIERRE KOMPANY**

Born on September 8, 1947, to Congolese parents, Pierre Kompany arrived in Belgium in 1975 as a political refugee. He became Belgian in 1982, finishing his studies of industrial mechanical engineering in aviation in 1988. He won two gold medals at the *Salon des Inventions* in Brussels and Geneva for a wind turbine. He worked successively as Quality Manager for DHL and a professor at the School of Arts & Crafts. Alderman at the municipality of Ganshoren from 2006 to 2012, he was elected Member of Parliament in Brussels in 2014 and 2020. In 2018, Pierre Kompany was appointed mayor of Ganshoren, becoming the first black to exercise this function in Belgium. He received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa, issued by the Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB) and the Brussels Parliament.



**MARIE-PIERRE VEDRENNE**

Until her election to the European Parliament, in third place on the Renaissance list, at the age of 36, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne directed the *Maison de l'Europe* in Rennes. A lawyer by training, she was national vice-president of the Young Europeans. Born in Limoges, she completed her studies in European and WTO law in Rennes, where she chose to live. She has a thorough knowledge of EU trade policy issues. In 2016, she took over the management of the *Maison de l'Europe* in Rennes. She supervises a hundred or so members and volunteers committed to the defence of the European Union. Marie-Pierre Vedrenne is very keen to promote the relevance of Europe in the daily life of citizens. Co-chair of the Renaissance delegation within the Renew group, she is also Vice-chair of the International Trade Committee and a member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee.



**KAREN CELIS**

Karen Celis is a research professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and co-director of the RHEA Centre of Expertise Gender, Diversity, Intersectionality. She is also the university's academic advisor on equality policy. Her research focuses on the democratic quality of political representation from an intersectional perspective. Her most recent book is *Feminist Democratic Representation*, co-authored by Sarah Childs and published in 2020 by Oxford University Press.



**ÁGNES SAROLTA FAZEKAS**

Ágnes Sarolta Fazekas (she/her) is an assistant professor at the Eötvös Loránd University Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education in Budapest, Hungary. Since 2019, Ágnes has been the leader of the Work Package 6 Inclusiveness of the CHARM-EU Alliance. Ágnes has been elected as a member of the EAIE General Council 2020-2022. In this role, Ágnes supports inclusive approaches that the EAIE will successfully change the higher education landscape. She has been the chair of the EAIE Expert Community Access and Diversity 2018-2020. She completed her PhD research on access & inclusion of people with disabilities in Higher Education. Ágnes holds a Master's degree in Social Policy.

## SPEAKERS



**ALISON GARNIER-RIVERS**

Alison Garnier-Rivers is EPICUR Alliance manager for the coordinator, the University of Strasbourg, France. As an active member of the informal group Forum of European Universities (FOR-EU), she currently co-chairs the FOR-EU1 (1<sup>st</sup> generation alliances) coordination group. She previously worked for 15 years as the European project officer of a regional French economic development agency specialising in digitalisation. From 2016 to 2021, she was also a senior consultant in European project management and funding. She holds a Master in History from the University of Sussex (UK) and a Master (D.E.S.S) in multimedia and internet project management from the University Paris 8 (FR).



**ÈVE-LAURE GAY**

Trained as a translator, Ève-Laure Gay holds a degree in European Studies from Paris 8 University (2012). She has been working since then on EU-funded projects related to formal and non-formal education, with a focus on youth engagement, inclusion and citizen empowerment. She joined the coordination team of the CIVIS Alliance in October 2019.



**MAGALI JAOUEN**

Magali Jaouen is Vice-President for strategy and sustainability at CY Cergy Paris University. Professor in Private Law, she is a specialist in contract and tort law. Her main research interests are contractual remedies, from the more specific perspective of the articulation between judge and parties. She has also developed expertise in the study of contractual engineering and the role of new technologies in the preparation and drafting of legal documents.