



Dissemination of EUTOPIA strategy, activities and results: Seminars



1. Strategy of the Seminars

As part of its external communications axes, EUTOPIA includes the engagement of debate with external experts on three identified challenges the alliance tackles: a new model of Education especially concerning the Life-Long Learning, an efficient Inclusion policy, and the road towards scientific diplomacy.

EUTOPIA plans three sessions, with the specific purpose to propose solutions for the future and ideal academia.

2. Audiences

1. European Commission's officers with decision-making authority;
2. Other pilot European Universities;
3. Higher-education representatives willing to participate.

3. Objective

Present and debate with the EC's representatives' solutions for the future's university designed by EUTOPIA. Obtain feedback.

Frame the future objectives of EUTOPIA as an alliance in different sectors.

4. Format

2:30 hours sessions, with presentations and debates.

Temporality

Session	1:	September	2021
Session	2:	October	2021
Session 3:		November	2022

5. Thematics

Session 1: **Connected Learning Communities and Life-Long Learning, two essential blocks for an innovative educational model**

Session 2: **Inclusion strategies for the future European university**

Session 3: **Scientific diplomacy, a tool for international HE integration**

6. Expectations

Immediate

expectation

Make EUTOPIA's actions visible to the European Commission and the academic community. E

Intermediate-term expectation

Test the 'seminar' format for future exchanges between member universities, and test the proper media allowing a broader circulation of EUTOPIA's actions.

EUTOPIA SEASON OF EXPERT SEMINARS
European University Autumn-Winter 2021

14h30 – 14h35 *Practicalities*
Lize De Potter Project Officer EUTOPIA

14h35 – 14h45 *Word of welcome – the EUTOPIA Expert Seminar Season*
Luciana Radut-Gaghi EUTOPIA lead scientist & research manager
Oxford Brookes University & project lead for the European Alliance

14h45 – 15h00 *The EUTOPIA subnational Model*
Jan Danckaert EUTOPIA lead scientist & students' representative
Dutch government for Education & Science

15h00 – 15h20 *Keynote address: Flexible lifelong learning enabled by the digital transformation: Opportunities and challenges for Higher Education Institutions*
Vesle Punle lead scientist, policy lead of the European Commission | Skills Research Centre, Seattle, United States and employment

15h20 – 15h40 *Keynote address: Flexible Life-Long Learning and the Interconnecting with the Labour Market*
Jens Bjørnåvold EUTOPIA lead scientist & development of Vocational Training, Cedefop

15h40 – 15h45 *Practicalities*
Lize De Potter Project Officer EUTOPIA

15h45 – 16h00 *Break*

16h00 – 17h00 *Deep-dive to discuss and exchange ideas*

ONLINE TRACK: Interactive Q&A
led by **Vesle Punle** (lead scientist and policy lead of the European Commission | Skills Research Centre in Seattle, United States and employment)
Jo Angoul (EUTOPIA Co-Leader in Copenhagen)
Jan Danckaert (EUTOPIA lead scientist & students' representative Dutch government for Education & Science)

ONSITE TRACK: Interactive Q&A
led by **Jens Bjørnåvold** (lead scientist of the European Commission | Skills Research Centre in Copenhagen)
Rosette Stijgers (EUTOPIA Co-Leader for Education in Belgium)
Evira Hoozondonck (Professor, Management of Society and report in the Netherlands)

17h00 – 17h15 *Reporting of findings deep-dive*
Jo Angoul (EUTOPIA Co-Leader in Copenhagen)
Rosette Stijgers (EUTOPIA Co-Leader for Education & Studies)

17h30 *Closing*

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRANSNATIONAL LIFE-LONG LEARNING

SEPTEMBER 14th, 2021
2:30 - 5:30 PM CET

PROGRAMME

EUTOPIA SEASON OF EXPERT SEMINARS
European University Autumn-Winter 2021

Vesle Punle
Vesle Punle is the executive Deputy Head of the United European Commission Research Centre in Seattle, United States and Employment. He is leading its research and policy activities on digital learning and skills. The research started in 2019, and has since produced evidence based policy support to the European Commission on harnessing the potential of digital technologies to increase education and training providers' impact across lifelong learning and mobility within the formal, non-formal and informal education sectors for employment, personal development and social inclusion, across work, learning, building the digital transformation ecosystem and learning, and for the changing work markets for skills and competence for the needs of the development of digital competences for networks for citizens (DIGCOMP), educators (DIGCOMP-EU), and online teachers (DIGCOMP-OT) as well as trainees of "Personalized Learning to Learn" (LIFE) and "Digital Skills for Jobs" (DIGCOMP) before the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021, he has been a visiting professor at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) in the field of Digital Skills Delivery.

Jens Bjørnåvold
Jens Bjørnåvold has been working with European education and training issues since 1995. Studying and working in several countries, the European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) in Brussels is his main employer since 2010. Since 1998, he has been involved in Cedefop and the European Commission, the Council of Europe. He is currently the executive director of Cedefop, Europe's knowledge centre on vocational training. In developing this knowledge centre, he has been instrumental in developing the lifelong learning strategy that Cedefop organizes. Successful outcomes toward training, the European Skills Action Plan (ESAP) and the European Skills Agenda (ESA). He is currently supporting the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the development of the European Skills Agenda and the development of digital competences for networks for citizens (DIGCOMP), educators (DIGCOMP-EU), and online teachers (DIGCOMP-OT) as well as trainees of "Personalized Learning to Learn" (LIFE) and "Digital Skills for Jobs" (DIGCOMP) before the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021, he has been a visiting professor at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) in the field of Digital Skills Delivery.

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRANSNATIONAL LIFE-LONG LEARNING

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SPEAKERS

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 to implementing inclusivity in its programmes.

The seminar ***Bridging the Gap: Designing Higher Education Policies through Inclusion Narratives*** intended 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, and real-life benefits.

Co-organised by CY Cergy Paris University, the seminar took place on the **17th of June 2022**, for the whole day, at **Ix Campus in Saint-Germain-en-Laye** (34 Rue de la Croix de Fer, 78100, Saint-Germain-en-Laye)



17 june 2022
SAINT-GERMAIN-EN-LAYE

EXPERT SEMINARS
**BRIDGING
THE GAP**

Designing higher education policies
through INCLUSION narratives





17 JUNE 2022 - 9:30/17:30 Ix Campus



BRIDGING THE GAP

Designing Higher Education Policies through Inclusion Narratives

Ix Campus

34 Rue de la Croix de Fer
78100 Saint-Germain-en-Laye
<https://ixcampus.eu>

Contact:
direction.europa@cyu.fr

<https://eutopia-university.eu>

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 start 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 e-learning 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 make statements of diversity. With their help EUTOPIA aims to become best equipped to sharpen concrete engagement, structural modeling, real life benefits, and a road-map for a future open inclusive academy.



BRIDGING THE GAP

Designing higher education policies through INCLUSION narratives



PROGRAMME



EXPERIENCES OF INCLUSION

- 09:30 Welcome words
Luciana RADUT-GAGHI, Vice president, CY Cregec 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, Mayor of Gaidanois, Belgium
Fati Houssein Cassa Senei, 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.F. – Doing inclusion in EUTOPIA
Karen CELLIS, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- 13:00 Bridging the gap: Inclusion and Higher Education in Global 2030 Agenda. The role of European University Initiatives across Europe and beyond
Agnes SAROLIA HAZEKAS, 2123 Erasmus Leuven University, Belgium, CHARMERU alliance.
- 13:30 Closing the mobility gap: some examples of EPICUR actions for a qualitative and inclusive education
Alison GARNIER-RIVERS, University of Strathclyde, 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 Cregec Paris University, France



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SPEAKERS



LUCIANA RADUT-GAGHI

Luciana RADUT-GAGHI is Vice President for the Erasmus alliance at CY Cregec Paris University. Her latest Associate Professor in Information and Communication Sciences since 2011, she has extensive experience in coordination of international research networks (ERASMUS coordination since 2004). 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, or specific topics like Europe history and contemporary.



CATHERINE GILLO-NILSSON

Catherine Gillo Nilsson is the University of Gothenburg's coordinator for EUTOPIA on Inclusion as part of her mission on coordinating EU efforts on welfare, access, participation and inclusion in higher education. Catherine holds Master degrees in scientific subjects education, Arts and international development cooperation, and social science. She has managed several EU projects helping and mentoring students in higher education, including "Inclusion Initiatives" workshops in the field, as well as international education, mobility and diversity 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 Cultural 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 protection, service user involvement in research and education, advocacy for people with mental illness and learning disabilities who experience social issues, and developing expertise in social work. She currently leads Work Package Promoting inclusion and equal access of EUTOPIA and the training programme for students 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, operational knowledge, and dealing with the crisis.



MARIAM OUARTI

Mariam Ouarti is an Associate of the Euro Adriatic Studies Academy. Her leadership position is a coordinator at the US Space & Border Center and during Space Camp and US America Challenge gave her an early insight into reducing inequality among her trans-generational team that operates in the White House (2016) and at the COP22 (2017) as a representative of the young scientists, as well as her work with Syrian refugee students swapped her in the area of access and inclusion in Academia. Being herself a student who experienced discrimination or, for different conditions, while also suffering from a mobility disability, Mariam is deeply concerned about activities in higher education, their achievement in the cases made for adult learners, existing initiatives to support sociology and political sciences. She is currently a student in the Social Sciences program held by the VUB and UCLouvain.



BRIDGING THE GAP
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SPEAKERS



PIERRE KOMPANY

Born on September 9, 1977, in Compiègne province, Pierre Kompany arrived in Belgium in 1993 as a political refugee. He became Belgian in 1995, founding the studies of industrial mechanical engineering in aviation in 1998. He won two gold medals at the 2001, 2005, 2006 and 2007 French and German for a novel turbine. He worked successively as Quality Manager for DSI, and a professor in the School of Arts of Catholic University at the University of Gandras, from 2000 to 2012. He was named Member of Parliament in Brussels in 2014 and 2020. In 2018, Pierre Kompany was appointed member of Commission, becoming the first black to access this function in Belgium. He received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Brussels Parliament.



MARIE-PIERRE VEDRENNE

Marie-Pierre Vedrenne is a research professor at the University of the Saarland in Germany. In 2010, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne directed the Mission de l'Europe in Brussels. After having trained, she was national vice-president of the Young Europeans. Born in Strasbourg, she completed her studies in Strasbourg and 2010 in Le Mans, where she chose to live. She has a thorough knowledge of EU trade policy issues. In 2015, she published her first book, 'The Mission of Europe in Brussels: A study on the evolution 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 Brussels delegation within the Jansen group, she is the Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and a collaborator 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 FHEA Center of Expertise Gender Diversity Internationality. 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 'Political Democratic Representation, co-authored by Sara Celis and published in 2020 by the University Press.



ÁGNES SAROLTA FAZEKAS

Agnes Sarolta Fazekas (német) is an assistant professor at the Sciences Po University Paris Lodron Faculty of Social, Health Education in Salzburg, Germany since 2019. Agnes has been the leader of the 'Wise Package' in the framework of the 'CRASH EU Alliance' General Council 2020-2022. In this role, Agnes supports inclusive approaches that the EAE will successfully change the higher education landscape. She has been the chair of the EAR (European Association of Research and Theory) 2018-2020. She completed her PhD research on access to inclusion of people with disabilities in Higher Education. Agnes holds a Master's Degree in Social Policy.



BRIDGING THE GAP
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SPEAKERS



ALISON GARNIER-RIVERS

Alison Garnier-Rivers is ERICUR Alliance manager for the coordinator, the University of Strasbourg, France. As an active member of the national group 'Forum of European Universities (FOR-EU)', she currently co-chairs the FOR 2014 (Association, Alliance) coalition between France. She previously worked for 13 years at the European project pillar of a regional French economic development agency specialising in digitalisation. From 2018 to 2021, she was also a senior consultant in European project management and financing. She holds a Master in History from the University of Sussex (2012) and a Master in EUSI in academic and research project management from the University of Sussex (2016).



EVE-LAURE GAY

Trained as a translation French-English, she holds a degree in European Studies from Paris 8 University (2013). She has been working since then on EU funded projects related to formal and non-formal education, with a focus on youth management, inclusion and career development. She joined the coordination team of the CIVIS Alliance in October 2019.



MAGALI JAOUEN

Magali Jaouen is Vice President for strategy and communication at CY Paris Lodron University in Fribourg, Switzerland. She is a specialist in contract law and has a research interest in contract law. 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.

Session 3.

The Expert Seminar on Science Diplomacy

Identifying Scientific Diplomacy (SD) strengths in partner institutions in education and research, identifying mechanisms through which partners can co-construct actions related to SD, and engaging with external stakeholders for SD efforts appeared as a compelling insight for University Alliances. EUTOPIA understood that these consortia could play a distinctive role and uphold European values beyond our frontiers. For awareness creation, EUTOPIA decided to reserve a specific line of action for SD in its new European project (EUTOPIA MORE), scheduling a series of seminars (two per year) with the following curriculum:

Seminar 1: “Introduction to Science Diplomacy”;

Seminar 2: “Taking Stock of Who Does What and What Needs to be Done”;

Seminar 3: “Developing an Awareness Building Plan”;

Seminars 4 to 7: “Exchanges of Experiences from Concrete Projects”;

Seminar 8: “Towards a EUTOPIA Strategy for Science/Knowledge diplomacy.”

As the topic would be thoroughly covered during the following years, the Expert Seminar EUTOPIA intended to organise before the end of November 2022 was transposed into an interview with the expert Luk Van Langenhove, filmed in Ljubljana during the EUTOPIA Week, which will operate as a guideline to the work that is undertaken within EUTOPIA.

Dr Luk Van Langenhove held the position of Director at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges. He was a Representative of the Rector at UNESCO in Paris. Before, he was Deputy Secretary-General of the Belgian Federal Ministry of Science Policy, Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Belgian Federal Minister of Science Policy and a researcher and lecturer at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Van Langenhove graduated from the VUB and received his PhD in Psychology from the same university. From 2006 until 2010, he was Vice-President of the International Social Sciences Council.

He has published widely on regional integration, social sciences theory, positioning theory and psychology. Recent books include *De Opmars van de Regio's* (Die Keure, 2014), *Building Regions* (Ashgate, 2011), *People and Societies* (Routledge, 2010), *World-Regional Social Policy and Global Governance* (with Deacon, Yeates and Macovei, Routledge, 2010). He is the author of *Innovating the Social Sciences* (2007), *De Benelux: Tijd voor een Wedergeboorte?* (with Wouters et al., 2006), *Positioning Theory* (with Harré, 1998). He is also the editor of *The EU as a Global Player: The Politics of Interregionalism* (with Söderbaum, 2006), *Global Politics of Regionalism: Theory and Practice* (with Farrell and Hettne, 2005), *Integrating Africa: Perspectives on Regional Integration and Development* (with Van Ginkel and Court, 2003). He also recently published in journals such as *The Review of International Studies*, *The Journal for European Integration*, *Global Policy*, *Global Governance* and *Europe's World*

He has been the Academic Director of the Institute for European Studies (IES) since December 2017 and the Academic Commissioner for International Institutes and Networks since September 2018 at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Since March 2016, he is also Research Professor and Scientific Coordinator of the Horizon 2020 EL-CSID project at the IES. EL-CSID studies the potential of science and cultural diplomacy for the EU's policies.

He strongly supported the S4D4C project ("Using Science for/in Diplomacy for Addressing Global Challenges"), which was built towards a set of long-term impacts such as:

- Stronger EU position in the global context
- The realisation of the EU's contribution to the solution of global challenges
- Stable and productive diplomatic relations with the EU's international partners
- Enhanced cooperation between the EU, its Member States and international partners
- Better contribution of SD to EU foreign policy
- Improvement of the global response to societal challenges
- Turning excellent science, technology and innovation into solutions for global challenges

Finally, he is one of the founders and, between June and December 2022, the chair of the *EU Science Diplomacy Alliance*. As such, he is part of the committee in charge of drafting the future EU policy in the field. EUTOPIA will sign as a member of this alliance in January 2023.



Luk Van Langenhove being interviewed in Ljubljana, November 2022

The video is available on the YouTube Channel of EUTOPIA and the relevant page on the alliance's website.