



35 years  
serving  
lifelong  
learning

## 56TH EUCEN CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE 2026

UNIVERSITY OF CAGLIARI

*3rd -5th June*



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
DI **CAGLIARI**



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH





## PROGRAM - 56TH EUCEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*University of Cagliari, Department Of Political And Social Sciences  
03-05 June 2026*

**Empowering Futures: Lifelong Learning, Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusion in a Changing World**

**Day 1 – Wednesday, 3 June 2026**

**14.00 – 15.00 Registration and Welcome coffee**

**15.00 – 15.30 Opening Ceremony**

Official welcome by Francesco Mola, Rector of the University of Cagliari, Ignazio Putzu, Vice-Rector for Education and Luciano Colombo, Vice-Rector for Research

Greetings from EUCEN Leadership & Conference Organisers

**15.30 – 16.15 Keynote speech: Professor Mauro Palumbo** (University of Genova) *“Universities as agents for Social Equity and inclusion: a challenge for LLL”*

**16.15 – 17.45 Poster and Parallel Paper Sessions – Block 1**

• **Shaping Society:** Universities as Catalysts of Inclusive Transformation

Room 11: Universities as Drivers of Co-Creation, Innovation and Social Transformation

Room 11 bis: Pedagogies of Agency, Citizenship and Transformative Learning

• **Shaping Skills:** Lifelong Learning Responses to Global Change

Room Baffi: Micro-Credentials, Inclusion and Lifelong Learning Systems

• **Shaping Tomorrow:** Policy, Innovation & Equity in LLL

Room Sotgiu: Governing Lifelong Learning: Institutions, Policies and Inclusion Frameworks

**Poster Session**

Room B: Inclusion, Participation and Transformative Learning Practices

**17.45 – 18.00 Day 1 Wrap-up & Announcements**

**18.00 – 19.00 Drinks and networking**

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Day 2 – Thursday, 4 June 2026

- 9.00 – 9.45**      **Keynote Speech: Professor Laura Formenti** (University of Milano Bicocca) “*Allies in Learning: Re-enchanting the University through Diverse Voices*”
- 9.45 – 10.15**      **Coffee Break & Networking**
- 10.15 – 11.30**      **Cross-cutting Perspectives on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Practices in Higher Education:**  
**Marcella Milana** – University of Verona  
**Eva Cendon** – Fern Universität in Hagen  
**Oonagh Aitken** - Volunteurope  
Moderator: **Lynsdey El Amoud** (University College Cork)
- 11.30 – 13.00**      **Poster and Parallel Paper Sessions – Block 2**
- **Shaping Society:** Inclusion & Lifelong Learning Research  
Room 11: Inequalities, Access and Structural Barriers in Lifelong Learning
  - **Shaping Skills:** Skills Development for the Future of Work  
Room Baffi: Skills, Work, and Innovative Learning Environments  
Room 11 bis: Transforming Continuing Education: Policy, Skills and Human-Centred Innovation in Lifelong Learning
  - **Shaping Tomorrow:** Innovative Policies and Institutional Practices  
Room Sotgiu: Inclusion, Equity and Critical Perspectives in Lifelong Learning
- Poster Session**  
Room B: Policy, Systems and Institutional Strategies in Lifelong Learning
- 13.00 – 14.30**      **Lunch Break**
- 14.30 – 16.00**      **Thematic Dialogues**
- Focus A – Inclusive Lifelong Learning Models  
Beate Hörr (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz) and  
Giuseppe Scaratti (University of Bergamo)
- Focus B – Policy Pathways and Institutional Change:  
Paul Adriaanse (University of Utrecht) and Jorie Soltic (PUC – KU  
Leuven Continue)
- Focus C – Community Engagement & Partnerships  
Camilla Fitzsimons (Maynooth University, Ireland) Heather  
Haseley (Imperial College, UK) and Elisa Gambardella (Solidar,  
Bruxelles - TBC)
- Moderator: **Ester Cois** (University of Cagliari)
- 16.00 – 16.30**      **Coffee Break & Networking**
- 16.30 – 18.30**      **General Assembly**
- 20.30**              **Social dinner - [Villa Fanny](#)**

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**Day 3 – Friday, 5 June 2026**

**9.00 – 10.00 Plenary Synthesis Session**

Reflection on Key Themes emerging from Parallel Sessions

**10.00 – 10.30 Coffee Break & Networking**

**10.30 – 11.45 Awards and Special Presentations**

SAMUELE Project ULLL Awards and Short presentations by authors

Awards Announcement

EUCEN Lifelong Learning Awards (2026 launch): First edition – Commemorative Awards (recognition of long-standing EUCEN members and contribution to lifelong learning)

**11.45 – 12.30 Keynote speech: Wieger Bakker** (University of Utrecht)

*“Empowering citizens: reimagining the future and purpose of university continuing education”*

**12.30 – 13.30 Closing plenary**

Future of Lifelong Learning

Announcing next EUCEN conference

**13.30 Official Conference Closing**

**In the afternoon/evening, a guided city and cultural visit is scheduled.**