



european university
continuing education network

Smile

Call for Contributions

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SMILE SYMPOSIUM

Barcelona (ES), 16 November 2023

2023 eucen Autumn Seminar

Barcelona (ES), 16-17 November 2023

Diversity in modern society - Making inclusion a central strategy in our universities

The SMILE Symposium, organised by **eucen** with the project consortium, and followed by the 2023 **eucen** Autumn Seminar, wants to give visibility to the way universities are (or should be) addressing diversity and inclusion, and celebrate the growth and evolution in importance of the third mission of universities and the role that lifelong learning (LLL) plays in this context.

Themes of the conference

In multi-cultural societies like those we live on, richness of ideas, preferences, and cultures cohabit. This offers endless possibility for learning and openness. However, sometimes politics and economics are driving forces that overshadow the opportunities that diversity brings. Are we embedding and profiting from multicultural chances? Do we value multiculturalism and diversity as deserved? Are universities prepared to go 'that extra mile' towards diversity and inclusion?

The fall events organised by **eucen** in collaboration with the SMILE project consortium would like to present ways to expand university good practices in the area of diversity and inclusion and focus on supporting professional and institutional development. You can submit your abstract addressing one of the three blocks of inequity:

1. Migrant background students

Migrant background students are underrepresented in higher education due to lower access and participation and high attainment rates. This can lead to unemployment and a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Your contribution could be linked to themes such as:

- Adaptation of the HEI curricula
- Flexibility of studies, to adapt to this target group's needs
- Recognition and validation of prior learning

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2. Women in leadership

Gender inequality in higher education is evident in the low number of women in leadership positions. Career progression in higher education is often related to research and research leadership, and men are 3 times more likely than women to reach the top in research-oriented institutions.

Your contribution could be linked to themes such as:

- Enabling and supporting gender balance
- Avoiding gender parity only for the sake of doing so
- Recognition of challenges in and out of the working place

3. Low socio-economic status students

'Low socio-economic status' is not defined in the same way in all countries and no recent aggregated comparative data is available. However, the educational attainment of parents can be used as a proxy, as it is closely related to employment, occupation and income. Students whose parents have attained a higher level of education have higher rates of completion in all EU countries, though to varying degrees.

Your contribution could be linked to themes such as:

- Entry and attainment
- Financial aid – innovative ways
- Special programmes that make a difference

You are welcomed to read more about these topics from the SMILE website¹.

Apart from selecting one topic, your abstract must be connected at least to one of these challenges:

- Understanding diversity** – promoting diversity, intersectionality, active engagement and advocacy
- Collaborating towards diversity** – cooperation between stakeholders, support to stakeholders' actions
- Embedding diversity** – HE programmes, data collection, monitoring or results
- Facilitating diversity** – flexible pathways, staff training, funding

We recommend you read the SMILE Policy Recommendations and Action Plan² to expand your understanding on these four areas.

The authors of the strongest abstracts will be invited to present their work in Barcelona – please, read the following pages for more details. They will also opt to win one of the three **SMILE Awards on Diversity 2023** that will be offered this year³ (see attached leaflet for more details).

¹ <http://smile.eucen.eu/>

² <http://smile.eucen.eu/policy/>

³ http://smile.eucen.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SMILE_DiversityAward2023_FINAL.pdf

Abstracts from participants

You are invited from all fields of research to submit an abstract addressing the symposium and seminar themes. Contributions from colleagues all around the world are welcome. Abstracts should be no more than 500 words. The deadline for submission of abstracts is **15th September 2023**

The Scientific Committee of these events is responsible for the selection of the submitted abstracts. Please submit your abstract using the online form that you will find at <http://eucenstudies.eucen.eu/current-call/>

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Papers

The next issue of the European Journal of University Lifelong Learning - EJULL⁴ will expand on the themes raised during the SMILE Symposium and 2023 **eucen** Autumn Seminar in Barcelona (ES), 16-17 November 2023. The themes addressed in this current issue are in line with the topics of the current call:

1. Migrant background students
2. Women in leadership
3. Low socio-economic status students

We are happy to accept three kinds of papers:

- i. Research papers drawing on theoretical debates or empirical research, contextualized within current national and international policy debate, which develop the theoretical base of the field or report on significant research done; Length: max. 3000-5000 words
- ii. Innovative Practice/Short papers including critical evaluations to share and discuss specific projects or practical approaches that either are in progress or have been completed; Length: max. 2000-3000 words
- iii. Discussion papers presenting informed opinion and reflection on current research and policy developments on university lifelong learning. Length: max. 1000-2000 words

All research papers undergo a double-blind review. Innovative practice/short papers and discussion papers are reviewed by one of the editorial board members.

Editorial process

- Deadline submission of Abstracts: 15 September 2023
- Feedback from the Scientific Committee to authors: 10 October 2023
- Deadline submission full papers: 12 December 2023 – send to journals@eucen.eu
- Feedback to authors on reviews: 31 January 2024
- Deadline for authors to submit revised papers: 23 February 2024
- Publication date: 31 May 2024

These deadlines will be strictly observed. Authors are urged to stick to the given deadlines.

House Style

Please, always use the House Style⁵ in your manuscripts to avoid slowing or endangering the process of peer-reviewing of your work.

⁴ <https://eucenstudies.eucen.eu/ejournal/>

⁵ <https://eucenstudies.eucen.eu/house-style/>

Information for contributors of Abstracts

Abstracts are to be proposed and submitted by one person. Up to three other people can be named as co-authors in the abstract proposal. For each participant, a maximum of two proposals, in which the person is named as an author or co-author, may be submitted. The abstract proposal must indicate which of the named authors will be presenting the paper. All those authors attending must register for the SMILE Symposium and 2023 **eucen** Autumn Seminar. The author or one of the named co-authors is responsible for communicating with the eucen conference organisers about the paper. Please indicate who the nominated contact person is. Accepted abstracts will be downloadable in PDF-format from these events' website.

Full conference papers will be externally peer reviewed and those that are accepted will be part of the European Journal of University Lifelong Learning – EJULL.

Registration

Please register for the events in Barcelona:

- SMILE Final Symposium: <https://forms.gle/zeGXWUKBjUJw1996A>
- 2023 **eucen** Autumn Seminar: <https://forms.gle/qfchvvAspCRijNfY9>

Only registered participants will be allowed into the sessions. **If you are intending to attend the SMILE Final Symposium and the Autumn Seminar, you need to fill in both registrations.** Thanks!

Participation to the SMILE Symposium is free. If you want to carry out a full immersive activity, you need to participate also in the 2023 **eucen** Autumn Seminar that will follow the Symposium.

2023 eucen Autumn Seminar Registration Fees

- **eucen**-members: 175€
- Authors of accepted abstracts who are non-members of **eucen**: 200€
- Non-members: 250€

Organisation/Institutions registering multiple members of staff will receive 10% discount in all their registrations. Please, read the Terms and Conditions⁶ of attending **eucen** events.

Scientific committee

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Please, contact events@eucen.eu for questions about the **Seminar and/or the Symposium**.

Please, contact journals@eucen.eu for questions about the **Call, abstracts and papers**.

⁶ http://www.eucen.eu/files/TermsConditions_eucen_events_2015.pdf