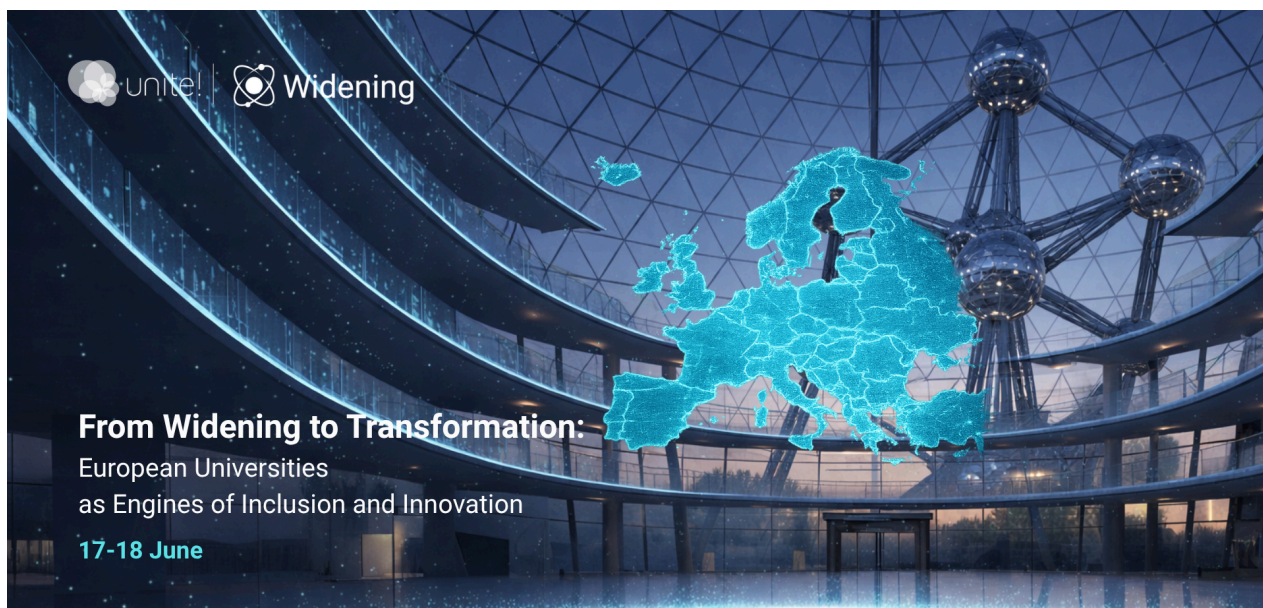


# From Widening to Transformation: European Universities as Engines of Inclusion and Innovation

17-18 June, 2026

Venue: NCBR Centre, Rue Belliard 40, 1040 Brussels, Belgium



## Programme

### Day 1 – "A Shared European Vision"

**13.30 – 14.00 Registration and Welcome Coffee**

**14.00 – 15.00 Opening of The Conference**

- **Waldemar Dubaniowski**, Director of NCBR Brussels Office
- **Prof. Arkadiusz Wójs**, Rector of Wrocław University of Science and Technology
- **Prof. Cecília Maria Pereira Rodrigues**, Vice-Rector of ULisboa Representing ULisboa

## **15.00 – 15.20 “A Shared European Vision” - Inauguration Lecture**

- **Joerg Niehoff**, Deputy Head of Unit ERA, Spreading Excellence & Research Careers, DG R&I
- **Pierre Schellekens**, Director for Energy policy: strategy and coordination at the Commission’s Directorate-General for Energy

## **15.20 – 16.20 "Bridging the Gap: Academic and Policy Insights into European Research Integration" - Individual presentations, followed by Q&A**

- **Prof. João Freitas Coroado**, The President of the Polytechnic University of Tomar and President of the KreativEU Alliance
- **Brigitte Hasewend**, ESEIA - European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance
- **Prof. Nataliya Shakhovska**, Lviv Polytechnic National University
- **Monika Sandrejeva**, CLiCAM- ERA Talents project

**Focus:** Experiences and Perspectives in research, innovation, and collaboration across Widening and Non-Widening partners; policy and academic insights; discussion of shared European objectives.

## **16.20 - 16.40 Coffee break**

## **16.40 – 17.40 “Widening in Practice: Successes, Challenges and Lessons for European Universities” - Roundtable discussion followed by Q&A**

- **Prof. Vivian Quema**, President of the Unite! European University Alliance
- **Mattias Björnmalm**, PhD, Secretary General of CESAER (Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research)
- **Prof. Nataliya Shakhovska**, Lviv Polytechnic National University
- **Prof. Célio Gonçalo Marques**, Vice-President of the Polytechnic University of Tomar and Secretary-General of the KreativEU Alliance

**Moderator:** **Ricardo Miguéis**, Head of Office of INESC Brussels HUB

**Focus:** Experiences of integrating less research-intensive universities into EU initiatives, highlighting successes, challenges, and lessons learned

## **17.50 - 19.30 Networking Reception & Cocktails**

## Day 2 – "Widening and institutional transformation"

**09:00 – 09:30 Coffee and Networking**

**09.30 – 10:30 "Bridging Research Capacity and Institutional Transformation in Europe"** - Keynote speeches

- **Prof. Josep M. Garrell**, President of the European University Association
- **Prof. Leszek Kaczmarek**, Professor at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology (PAS) and Member of the ERC Scientific Council

**10:30 – 10:50 Coffee break**

**10:50 – 11:50 "A Strategic Look from Key Actors"** - Roundtable discussion

- **Prof. Renata Krzyżyńska**, Vice-Rector for Cooperation with the External Environment at Wrocław University of Science and Technology (WUST), Vice-President of T.I.M.E. Association
- **Prof. Josep M. Garrell**, President of the European University Association
- **Prof. Manuel Heitor**, Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) (University of Lisbon)
- **Prof. Leszek Kaczmarek**, Professor at the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology (PAS) and Member of the ERC Scientific Council

**Moderator: Prof. Fátima Montemor**, Instituto Superior Técnico da Universidade Lisboa, Unite!Widening Project Coordinator Unite!Widening

**Focus:** Exploring strategic pathways to bridge innovation gaps and amplify the collective impact of cooperation across the European Research Area. By discussing strategies to empower education actors, the panel aims to foster a more cohesive and globally competitive scientific ecosystem.

**11:50 – 12:00 Break**

**12.00 – 13:00 "Widening & EUI as Catalysts for Transformation"** - Moderated discussion followed by Q&A

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- **Prof. Raquel Barreira**, Widening Alliances - EUDRES
- **Prof. Bernard Vanheusden**, Chair of Board of Rectors, Eureka-Pro

**Focus:** Exploring how European University Alliances drive institutional transformation and innovation, and how widening participation supports these efforts to achieve ERA ambitions.

**Moderator:** Anshika Suri, Policy and Funding Advisor for the Unite! Alliance

**13:05- 13:20 Closing Remarks, Presentation of Draft Conclusions and Announcement of Follow-Up Actions**

- **Prof. Fátima Montemor**, Unite!Widening Project Coordinator
- **Prof. Agata Klaus Rosińska**, Wrocław University of Science and Technology  
Unite!Widening Project Coordinator