Promoting Erasmus+ Mobilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in Higher Education

14th-16th May, Vienna

Speakers and Panellists

Martin Unger has been working as a research associate at IHS since 1998, currently in the research group Educational Structures and Educational Opportunities where he leads the competence area Higher Education Research. He studied Sociology at the University of Vienna and subsequently attended the postgraduate course in Sociology at IHS (1996-1998). For 20 years, he has been active as a "technical expert" in working groups of the international Bologna Process and has also advised international governments in this role. Since 2014, he has been a member of the board of the Society for Higher Education Research (GfHf) and is one of the spokespersons for the Higher Education Research Network in Austria. Martin's research interests in higher education focus on the social dimension of students (including the Student Social Survey, EUROSTUDENT), the compatibility of studies with other areas of life, graduate research (including EUROGRADUATE), STEM studies, and the evaluation of reforms or measures in the higher education sector.

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Sille Pihlak is an architect, researcher, and dean of Architecture at the Estonian Academy of Arts. A graduate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna, she has worked with Morphosis LA and Coop Himmelb(l)au. In 2015, she co-founded PART, an experimental architecture office recognized internationally, most recently on the 2024 EU Mies Award shortlist. In 2020, Sille earned her doctorate and is now a researcher at timber architecture center PAKK, focusing on algorithmic construction techniques and design methods.

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José Luís de Sousa is Pro-president of the Setubal Polytechnic University, Portugal, since 2022. Has a PhD in Electrical Engineering, a master degree in Systems and Automation and a bachelors' degree in Electrical Engineering by University of Coimbra, Portugal. Is Adjunct Professor at the Setubal School of Technology (SST) of the Setubal Polytechnic University. He has been teaching at the SST since 1980, mostly electromagnetism and electric energy management related subjects to undergraduate and graduate students. He was coordinator of the undergraduate course in Electrical and Computer Engineering between 2014 and 2020, President of the Department of Electrical Engineering between 2018 and 2020, and Vice-President of the Technical and Scientific Council of the SST between 2016 and 2022. He is an integrated researcher of the Institute for Systems Engineering and Computers at Coimbra (INESC Coimbra). He is a is a founding member of the Portugal Sustainable Campus Network. He has been researching since the early 1990s and his research interests are Energy efficiency, Electric utilities promotion of energy efficiency, Demand response, end Energy management systems.

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Thomas Gamse is an expert in chemical process engineering. He studied and earned his PhD at Graz University of Technology, where he has worked since 1991, becoming an associate professor in 2004. His main research focuses on thermal process and environmental engineering, particularly high-pressure technologies and processes using compressed gases. He has led and participated in numerous national and international research projects and taught at various institutions, including the University of Applied Sciences FH Joanneum. He was a research professor under the "Ramon y Cajal" program at the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Valladolid in Spain and has been a key member of several scientific committees, including EFCE Working Party "High Pressure Technology" and ProcessNet. His achievements include organizing annual Summer Schools on High Pressure Technology, receiving in 2011 the ERASMUS+ Life Long Learning Award for the project "Supercritical Fluids-Green Solvents for Chemical Engineering" and publishing over 120 papers.

Stephan Recker received in 2004 his doctorate degree from University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany from the faculty of electrical engineering and electronics with summa cum laude after completing his studies for a diploma in electrical engineering at RWTH Aachen University in Germany in 1997. In 2013 he received a Master of Business Administration from Warwick Business School at Warwick University in the United Kingdom. From 1997 to 2005 Stephan Recker contributed to different European research projects in the

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area of communication networks at a the privately-owned research institute IMST GmbH in Germany. From 2005 to 2018 he held various positions at Vodafone Group Services managing Operations Support Systems for Wide Area Networks, Data Centre Network Engineering and Full Service Solution Hosting functions. In 2018 Stephan joined Dortmund University of Applied Science and Arts as full professor for IT systems integration. From 2020 to 2024 he was vice dean for international affairs and faculty development at the faculty of computer science and since 2023 he is director of the faculty's Smart Edge Lab.

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Christoph Senft studied English, German, History, and Political Science at the University of Tübingen before earning his doctorate at the University of Potsdam with a dissertation on contemporary English-language literature in India, which he completed as part of an EU-funded Marie Curie Initial Training Network. He spent several years working as head of a DAAD Information Center in India and in student marketing at Freie Universität Berlin. After founding and managing his own international HR consultancy, he moved to Deutsche Bahn as an HR project manager. At his current employer, Nexperia – an international semiconductor company with a production site in Hamburg – Christoph Senft is responsible for university relations and the young talent network.

Martina Wolfgruber is a seasoned Human Resources professional with over 15 years of experience across various domains, including talent marketing, development and project management. Currently, she serves as the Head of Skills & Innovation Funding, where she is responsible for overseeing funded projects focused on talent attainment and promoting careers in the microelectronics sector. Her expertise also extends to advancing science and education initiatives in this field.
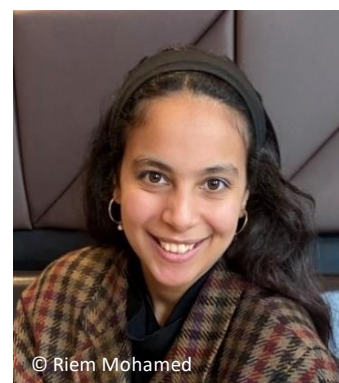

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She is accountable for overseeing funded projects focused on cultivating and developing rising talents, ultimately contributing to the growth of a skilled future workforce for the microelectronics industry.

© Rui Miguel Pascoal

Rui Miguel Pascoal holds a PhD in Information Science and Technology from ISCTE-IUL, is a research assistant at ISTAR-IUL - Information Sciences Technologies and Architecture Research Center and an assistant professor at Atlantica – University Institute, and at European University, Lisbon, where he teaches several curricular units such as Software Engineering, IT Project Management, Systems Administration, and Structured Programming, among others. Previously, Rui pursued a career as a technician at HP (1998-2000) focusing on configuring UNIX and NT servers; at IBM (2004-2014) operating Z/OS Mainframes in Critical Recovery, software distribution and biometric identity management systems; at CTT Correios of Portugal (2015-2018) focusing on Management Planning and Control, Business Intelligence, Executive Information System and SAP Business Warehouse. His current research interests are information overload, activity recognition, mobile augmented reality technology, speech recognition, and battery efficiency.

Riem Mohamed is currently completing her master's degree in Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems. As part of her studies, she participated in an Erasmus+ mobility programme at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. There she designed and managed an independent research project focused on the cultivation and differentiation of human skeletal muscle stem cells and Schwann cells on FN-silk fibers for tissue engineering. She optimized 2D and 3D cell culture conditions, developed antibody staining protocols for hSKMSC and gained hands-on experience with fluorescence staining, light sheet microscopy, and cell viability assays. With previous roles as a laboratory technician and pharmacist in Egypt, she brings strong skills in clinical analysis and pharmaceutical care.

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Stefan Roth is a distinguished physicist at RWTH Aachen University. After studying physics at the University of Würzburg and RWTH Aachen University (1987–1993), he earned his PhD (1997) and habilitation (2007) at RWTH Achen University. Since 2007 he has been involved in program management, including study counselling for physics students and coordinating degree programmes along with their accreditation. He is also responsible for recognition of external exam results. Furthermore, he represents the department of physics of RWTH Aachen University at the German conference of physics departments (KFP) and contributed to the DAAD-funded MyScore project (2020–2022). His teaching focuses on particles and experimental physics. Since 2024, he has been a member of the European "Education Working Group" which is developing a common document on degree standards for physics across Europe. In research, Stefan Roth is a member of major international collaborations, including T2K and Hyper-Kamiokande in Japan, and DRD1 at CERN.

© Kaie Eha

Kaie Eha is a lecturer at TTK University of Applied Sciences with a multidisciplinary background in environmental chemistry and pharmacological sciences. She has worked in various academic and governmental roles, including the Education and Youth Board and the Environmental Board. With two Master's degrees—one in chemistry and environmental protection technology (TalTech, 2020) and another in marine biology and environmental science (Tallinn University, 2011)—her research has focused on pharmaceutical pollutants and biodiversity in rare forest ecosystems.

Luís Miguel Castro holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences and a degree in Chemical Engineering. He is a Coordinating Professor at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra (IPC) – Coimbra Institute of Engineering (ISEC), an integrated researcher at CERNAS – Research Centre for Natural Resources, Environment and Society, a collaborating researcher at CERES – Chemical Engineering and Renewable Resources for Sustainability, and a member of SiSus – Sustainable Industrial Solutions Laboratory. His research focuses on industrial wastewater and air emissions treatment systems, environmental management, and sustainability. He leads the Environmental Technology Laboratory (LTA), part of the Applied Research Institute (I2A), and has conducted PCIP verifications on behalf of ISEC/IPC since 2020 as a Qualified PCIP Verifier certified

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by Portuguese Environmental Agency (APA) for the sector groups of metal production, processing, and surface treatment, waste management and textiles and tanning. He is also an Environmental Technical Auditor and Lead Auditor for Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), as well as for Research, Development and Innovation Management Systems (ISO 56001/NP 4457). He has authored 41 Scopus-indexed international publications (H-index: 13) and is co-inventor of five national and two international patents. Currently he co-supervises two PhD students engaged in experimental research at ISEC/IPC in partnership with industrial companies. Since 2015, he has led over 16 industry-funded R&D projects supported by Portuguese innovation and funding agencies. He served as President of the Technical-Scientific Council at ISEC/IPC (2022–2024), and as President of the Chemical and Biological Engineering Scientific Commission of ISEC/IPC (2005–2009 and 2020–2022). He has also been Head of the International Relations Office at ISEC/IPC since 2018.

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Chris Schubert, Head of Media Management and Library-IT and Local Coordinator for the European University Association's (EUA) EULiST initiative at the Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien) in Austria, has over 20 years' experience working on interoperable services. He has worked in both the private and public sectors. He was heavily involved at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission from 2012 to 2015, working to specify an EU Directive for Interoperable Data and Services. In Austria, he was responsible for setting up a climate research data computing infrastructure from 2015 until he moved to TU Wien in 2021. At European and global levels, he has led various international working groups, including as chair of the GEO (Group on Earth Observation) Data Sharing and Data Management Principles Working Group from 2020 to 2023. In 2021, he was accepted as a member of the EOSC Association Task Force for FAIR Metrics and Data Quality, which he has led as co-chair since 2022. As a member of ISO and CODATA, he represents Austrian interests. Following the approval of funding for EULiST (European Universities Linking Society and Technology), he took on the role of local coordinator at TU Wien.

Philipp Höhne is a master student in Biochemistry at the Technical University of Berlin, where he also works in the Strategic Teaching Development team. After his Erasmus year in Vienna, he co-founded the local association Erasmus Student Network Berlin, served as its president, and got involved with the European University Alliance ENHANCE at his university. He is currently the Liaison Officer of ESN Germany and an ENHANCE student, connected to the TU Berlin ENHANCE student board.His understanding of university structures comes from his years as a member of the student council in his chemistry department and later in the academic senate. Through his work in ESN, he became even more involved in the European Universities Initiative by informing volunteers and supporting local ESN associations in engaging with their European University Alliance. He is passionate about advocacy and education and enjoys working on projects that strengthen international exchange and student mobility.

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Bianca Keiper is Head of the GoOut! Service Center at Saarland University since 2024. With a strong background in international mobility services, project management, and intercultural communication, she brings both expertise to the field. From 2021 to 2024, she established and led the GoOut! Service Center and managed the DAAD-funded "Transform4Europe Saar" project. Her international experience includes an Erasmus+ internship at Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles and a study visit at Université Bordeaux Montaigne. She holds an M.A. in Intercultural Communication from Saarland University and a B.A. in Applied Intercultural Linguistics from the University of Augsburg. Her work focuses on expanding mobility opportunities and strengthening intercultural skills among students.