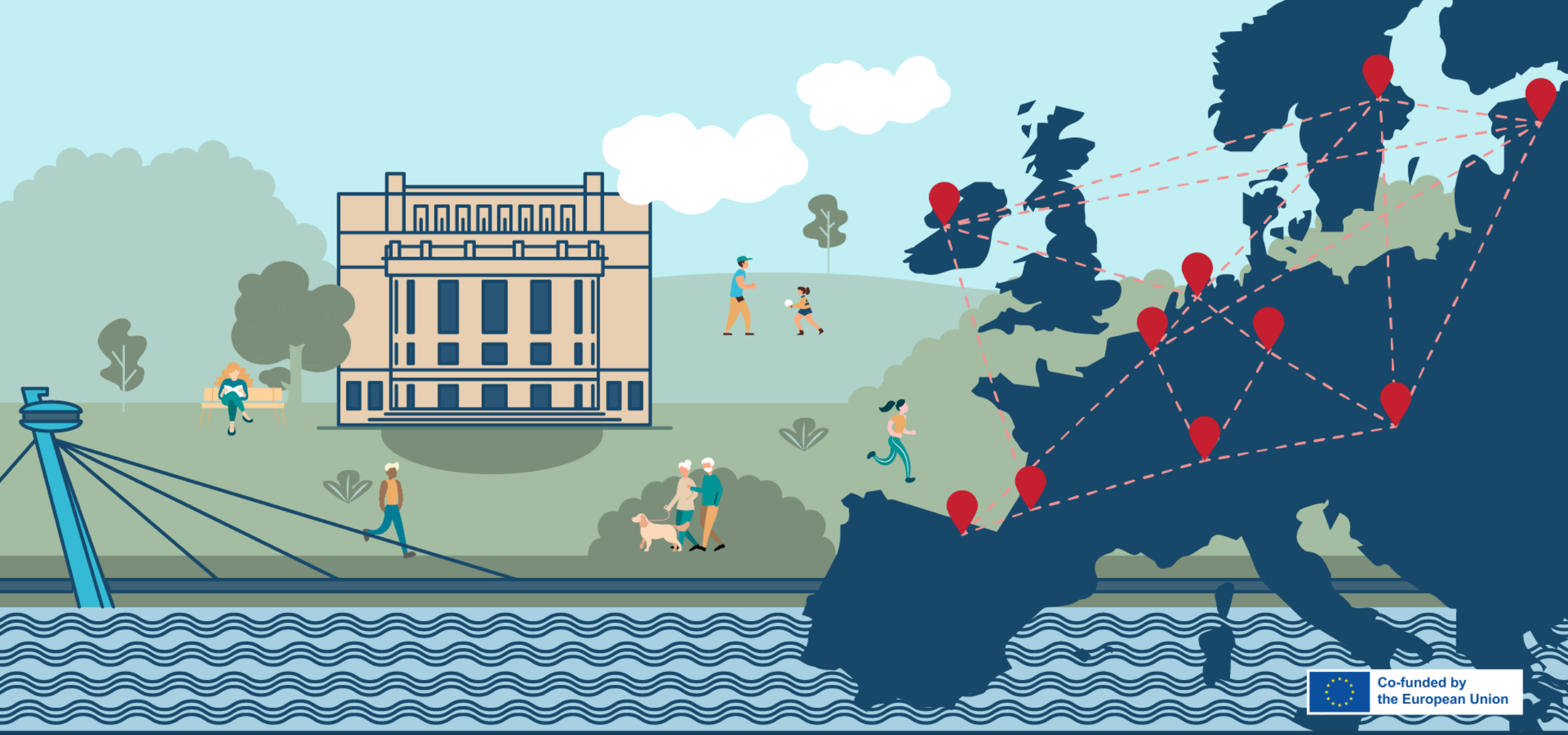


ENLIGHT IMPACT CONFERENCE

Bratislava, Slovakia
11-12 February 2027

Bratislava, 11-12 February 2027

ENLIGHT Impact Conference

Collaborating for Impact: Transforming European Universities

Draft Programme



ENLIGHT | Co-funded by the European Union



Wednesday
10
FEBRUARY

15:30 - 18:30 — **Impact Pitch Rehearsal**
For ENLIGHT Impact Awards Nominees

17:30 - 18:30 — **Speakers Briefing**

19:00 — *Speakers Dinner*

Thursday
11
FEBRUARY

WHEN COLLABORATION MEETS REALITY
Tensions, Trade-Offs and Opportunities for Impact

9:00 - 9:30 — Plenary room

Welcome session

- **Marek Števček.** Rector of the Comenius University Bratislava. Slovakia.
- **Leah Vandeveer.** ENLIGHT Secretary General. Ghent University. Belgium.
- **Tomáš Drucker.** Minister of Education. Slovakia. (tbc)

9:30 - 10:30 — Plenary room

Keynote Speeches: Collaborating for Impact
Why Collaboration Matters for the Future of European Universities?

Keynote Speakers:

- **Robert-Jan Smits.** President of the Netherlands House of Education and Research. The Netherlands.
- **Jenny Nordqvist.** Head of Department Analysis. Swedish Higher Education Authority. Sweden.
- **Igor Campillo.** ENLIGHT Thematic Networks Coordinator. Director of Euskampus Foundation. University of the Basque Country. Spain.

10:30 -11:00 — *Coffee Break*

11:00 - 12:30

Plenary room

Roundtable Discussion

Collaboration Within and Beyond University Borders

Chair:

- **Sabine Sainte-Rose.** General Council Member- European Association for International Education (EAIE). Secretary General- ENGAGE.EU University Alliance. Germany.

Speakers:

- *Academic Perspective*
  Muriel Grenon. 2025 ENLIGHT Impact Ambassador. Lecturer, Principal investigator, Founding Director of Cell Explorers School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, College of Science & Engineering. University of Galway. Ireland.

- *Student Perspective*
  Zulima Martí Cuñat. Former ENLIGHT Student Network Member. University of Groningen. The Netherlands.

- *Support Staff Perspective*
  Anne Magherman. Policy Advisor Societal Outreach. Ghent University. Belgium.

- *Institutional Perspective*
  Ugo Mayor. Director of Social Impact. University of the Basque Country. Spain.

- *Societal Stakeholder Perspective*
  Speaker from ESET. Slovakia. (tbc)

12:30 -13:30

Lunch

Afternoon Sessions

13:30 – 14:30

Interactive Workshop: Challenges

What prevents collaboration for impact?

Facilitators:

- **Aishling Hanrahan.** ENLIGHT Engagement Manager. University of Galway. Ireland.
- **Cécile Agullo.** International Projects Officer. Euskampus Foundation. University of the Basque Country. Spain.
- **Franka van den Hende.** Senior Policy Advisor and Researcher. University of Groningen. The Netherlands.
- **Ivana Juríková.** Assistant Professor. Comenius University Bratislava. Slovakia.

Raising Literacy Session 1

How to Collaborate for Impact: Orchestrating External Engagement

- **Balzhan Orazbayeva.** Director Research & Training. UIIN. The Netherlands.

Raising Literacy Session 2

Co-Creating a Healthy Impact Culture

- **David Phipps.** Assistant Vice President Research Strategy & Impact. York University. Canada.

Side-Event

Evidencing Impact

Organised by the FOREU4ALL Impact Topical Group.

14:30 – 15:00

Coffee Break

15:00 – 16:00

Interactive Workshop: Solutions

How can we strengthen collaboration for impact?

Facilitators:

- **Aishling Hanrahan.** ENLIGHT Engagement Manager. University of Galway. Ireland.
- **Cécile Agullo.** International Projects Officer. Euskampus Foundation. University of the Basque Country. Spain.
- **Franka van den Hende.** Senior Policy Advisor and Researcher. University of Groningen. The Netherlands.
- **Ivana Juríková.** Assistant Professor. Comenius University Bratislava. Slovakia.

Raising Literacy Session 3

Evidencing Engagement & Impact

- **Saskia Walcott**. Founder and CEO. Walcott Communications. United Kingdom.

Raising Literacy Session 4

What If Closing the Excellence Gap Was Everyone's Job? Rethinking Widening and Impact in Europe

- **Hana Owsiankova.** Impact Manager. Palacký University Olomouc. Czech Republic.
- **Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk.** Deputy Head of Unit. Institute of Fundamental Technological Research PAS. Poland.

Side-Event

Evidencing Impact

Organised by the FOREU4ALL Impact Topical Group.



16:00 -16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30 - 18:00

Matchmaking Session
Building Collaborative Bridges

Facilitators:

- **Anna Savitskaya.** ENLIGHT Project Coordinator. University of Göttingen. Germany.
- **Mária Bohumelová.** Project Manager. Comenius University of Bratislava. Slovakia.
- **Marta Barandiaran**. Former ENLIGHT Director. University of the Basque Country. Spain.
- **Sepideh Ravazi.** Collaboration Manager. Uppsala University. Sweden.

Free time

19:30 *Social event and Dinner*

Friday
12
FEBRUARY

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE
What Impact Looks Like?

9:00 - 10:30
Plenary room

Bringing Theory Into Practice
Impact-elevator Pitch

Chair:

- **Saskia Walcott.** Founder and CEO. Walcott Communications. United Kingdom.

Experts Panel:

- **Andreas Raggautz.** Colead Communication, Dissemination & Impact and Development Unit. Arqus University Alliance. Austria.
- **Claire Revercez.** Project Manager. EUNICE University Alliance. Belgium
- **Hannah Worringer.** Impact and Quality Officer. ENHANCE University Alliance. Germany.
- **Marie Darimont.** Project Manager. Transform4Europe University Alliance. Germany.

ENLIGHT Impact Awards Nominees: *To be announced in November 2026.*



10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:15

Plenary room

Roundtable Discussion 2

How European University Alliances are bringing about impact and transforming the European Education Area

Chair:

- **Michal Karpíšek.** FOREU4ALL Forum Board. Secretary General E³UDRES² University Alliance. Austria

European University Alliances' **testimonies:**

- **Aliyah Morgenstern.** Vice-President. Sorbonne Nouvelle University. YUFE University Alliance. France
- **Bruno Lopes de Almeida.** PhD Research and Teaching Assistant in American Studies. Paris Lodron University of Salzburg. Arqus University Alliance. Austria.
- **Pavel Mihaľák.** Art Director. ČERVENÝ NOS Clowndoctors. ENLIGHT University Alliance. Slovakia.
- Testimonies of ENHANCE, EC2U to be confirmed.

12:15 – 12:45

Plenary room

Closing Plenary

Chair:

- **Glória Nunes Rodrigues.** ENLIGHT Impact Task Force. International Manager. Euskampus Foundation. University of the Basque Country. Spain.

Conference conclusions:

- **Franka van den Hende.** Senior Policy Advisor and Researcher. University of Groningen. The Netherlands.

12:45 – 13:00

Plenary room

Awards Ceremony

Chair:

- **Leah Vandeveer.** ENLIGHT Secretary General. Ghent University. Belgium.

Awards by:

- **Marek Števček.** Rector of the Comenius University Bratislava. Slovakia.
- **Prof. Anders Hagfeldt.** ENLIGHT President. Rector of Uppsala University. Sweden.

Closing words:

- **Prof. Anders Hagfeldt.** ENLIGHT President. Rector of Uppsala University. Sweden.

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

Departure of Participants