

Programme

Aurora Annual Conference 2025

19-22 May

Université Paris-Est Créteil
France



Table of contents

<u>Programme</u>	p.4
<u>Sessions</u>	p.17
<u>Workshops, Work Package & Task Team Meetings</u>	p.34
<u>Speakers</u>	p.40

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with large glass windows and a flat roof. A tree is in the foreground, and the sky is blue with some clouds. The image has a blue and purple color gradient overlay.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boule, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

11:00 - 15:00

Aurora Student Council at UPEC - Law
Faculty

17:00 - 19:00

Opening Ceremony at La Sorbonne*:

Opening Speeches

- Prof. Jean-Luc Dubois-Randé – President of Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC)
- Dr. Ramon Puras – Secretary General, Aurora

Handover of Aurora Presidency

- Prof. Martin Procházka – Former Rector of Palacký University Olomouc (UP)
- Prof. Veronika Sexl – Rector of Universität Innsbruck (UIBK)

High-level Talk

Elizabeth Blackburn, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2009)

Introduction: Prof. Veronika Sexl

Cocktail reception

Welcome speech by Prof. Martin Schwell –
Aurora Institutional Coordinator at UPEC

20:00 - 23:00

Presidents' dinner

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

08:15 - 09:00

Welcome & Registration - Building A

09:00 - 10:30

Plenary Session 1 – Auditorium A1

Opening speeches

- Prof. Veronika Sexl, Rector of Universität Innsbruck
- Sylvie Simon-Deck, Deputy Mayor of the City of Créteil

Keynote speeches

- Dr. Susanne Conze – European Commission, DG EAC, Head of Unit for Higher Education
- Prof. Fabienne Peraldi Leneuf – Chair of Board of Directors, Una Europa
- Prof. Dugan O’Neil – Vice-President Research & Innovation, Simon Fraser University

European Universities: Past, Present and Future

- David Itier – Head of Unit – European Strategies for Higher Education and Research, French Ministry of Higher Education and Research
- Dr. Ramon Puras – Secretary General, Aurora
- Sabine Allain Sainte-Rose – Secretary General, ENGAGE.EU, member of EAIE Board
- *Moderator: Miranda Prynne, Times Higher Education*

TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boule, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30

Plenary session 2 – Building B

Aurora Achievements Poster Session

12:30 - 12:45

Photo session

12:45 - 14:00

Lunch break

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

14:00 - 16:00

Presidents' Strategy Meeting

3rd Floor - Salle des conseils

**Workshops, Work Package & Task Team
Meetings**

WP 2: Transdisciplinary European Research Driven
Educational Hub (Buchenau, Raab, Sellitto)

1st Floor - Room 101

TT 4.2: LOUIS Competence Framework – How Can
It Help You? (Tomoszek)

1st Floor - Room 102

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

 Closed session

TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

14:00 - 16:00

Workshops, Work Package & Task Team Meetings

TT 4.3: South-South and Triangular Collaboration
(Snelder, di Prima, Koch, Thévenet)
1st Floor - Room 103

WP 5: Aurora Research and Innovation
Community (Beekmann, Jonson, Haettich)
1st Floor - Room 104

TT 6.2: Sustainability Summit Preparation
(Hunkova, Rieg)
1st Floor - Room 111

WP 8: Enabling Mobility and Exchange – Work
Package 8 Meeting (Vives Cabré)
1st Floor - Room 112

16:00 - 17:30

General Council Meeting *3rd Floor - Salle des conseils*

Coffee break – Networking – Poster Session
Buildings A and B

TT 1.2: Quality Assurance, Quality Control
(Stephensen)
1st Floor - Room 114

20:00 -

Joint Dinner
Vice-rectors for Education (VRE) and Vice-rectors
for Research (VRR)

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

 Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boule, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

08:30 - 09:00

Welcome & Coffee – Building A

09:00 - 10:30

Plenary session 3 – Auditorium A1

Opening Speech

Prof. Laurent Gamet, Dean of the Faculty of Law,
Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC)

Building Scientific Communities in Aurora

- Prof. Lolita Rubens – Vice-Rector of Social Responsibility (UPEC)
- Dr. Emilie Frenkiel (UPEC)
- Dr. Romana Klášterecká (UP)
- Prof. Simone Moser (UIBK)
- Prof. Bing Wu (UI)
- *Moderators: Prof. Barbara Buchenau, University of Duisburg-Essen, and Prof. Matthias Beekmann, UPEC*

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee break

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

 Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

11:00 - 12:30

Plenary session 4 – Auditorium A1

Empowering Voices: Advocating for Students' Rights Across Europe

- Mathilde Chaumont, President of the Aurora Student Council (ASC) and student at UPEC
- Sören Daehn, ASC Vice-president, and student at Copenhagen Business School (CBS)
- Simona Gibalová, ASC Member and student at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
- Simon Westhoff, Aurora Student Ambassador, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- *Moderator: Hanuš Patera, former ASC President and student staff at CBS*

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch break

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

13:30 - 14:45

VRE Meeting and Micro-credential Session
3rd Floor - Salle des conseils

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

14:00 - 15:00

Workshops, Work Package & Task Team Meetings

TT 3.1, TT 3.2 and TT 3.3: seismic Activities & Award Winners (Huske, Hockerts, Kuhr)
1st Floor - Room 102

14:00 - 15:30

TT 2.1 and TT 2.5: Micro-Credentials & Recognition (Raab, Sellitto)
1st Floor - Room 101

TT 4.1: Engaging the Community in Education: Service Learning to Citizen Science (Zweeckhorst)
1st Floor - Room 103

TT 5.1: Workshop on Research Impact Assessment (Ataci, Schwell, Haettich)
1st Floor - Room 104

TT 7.3: Capacity Development Programme in CEE (Porobić, Khyzhniak)
1st Floor - Room 114

WP 8: Enabling Mobility and Exchange – Workshop on Internationalisation at Home (Vives Cabré)
1st Floor - Room 112

TT 10.2: Science and Society (Cruz de Carvalho)
1st Floor - Room 115

14:00 - 16:00

TT 9.3: Aurora Values Meeting and Launch of Communities of Practice (Maas)
1st Floor - Room 111

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boule, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

14:00 - 18:00

Workshops, Work Package & Task Team Meetings

WP 2: SDGs Methodologies Seminar (Penagos, Maffia, Catalanotti)
Building A - Auditorium A1

14:15 - 15:00

VRR Meeting *3rd Floor - Room 301*

15:00 - 15:30

TT 3.4: Regional Stakeholders Engagement Strategy (Malacka, Simackova)
1st Floor - Room 102

15:00 - 16:00

Joint VRR and VRE Meeting *3rd Floor - Salle des conseils*

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 - 17:30

Executive Committee Meeting *3rd Floor - Salle des conseils*

TT 4.2: Education for Sustainable Development (Pálsdóttir)
1st Floor - Room 103

TT 5.3: Support and Infrastructure for Open Science (Vanderfeesten, Bosch, Beekmann)
1st Floor - Room 104

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

 Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

16:00 - 17:30

Workshops, Work Package & Task Team Meetings

TT 7.4: Creation of Aurora Karazin University Peace Education HUB (Porobić, Capec, Khyzhniak)
1st Floor - Room 114

Workshop: Strengthening Research Security – Sharing Practices and Developing an Exchange Agenda (Lasage)
1st Floor - Room 112

EURIDICE Joint Master Programme Digital Society, Social Innovation and Global Citizenship
1st Floor - Room 101

19:30 - 23:00

Aurora Gala Dinner

Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

 Closed session

THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

08:30 - 09:00

Welcome & Coffee

09:00 - 12:00

Aurora Sustainability Summit 2025 - Auditorium A1

Opening speech by Prof. Veronika Sexl, Rector of
Universität Innsbruck

Part 1: Setting the Stage

- Aurora Sustainability Survey - Zuzana Hunková,
Coordinator for Sustainable Development (UP)

Part 2: Making the Case for Sustainability – Good Practices from Aurora

*International and Interdisciplinary Community
Service Learning for Sustainability*

- Prof. Marjolein Zweekhorst (VU Amsterdam)

*Re-thinking Food Systems in the Anthropocene: An
Educational Experience in Naples*

- Dr. Ramon Rispoli (UNINA)
- Benedetta Toledo (UNINA)

Coffee break

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

09:00 - 12:00

Aurora Sustainability Summit 2025 - Auditorium A1

Part 3: The Value of Networks for Advancing Sustainability

Keynote speech

- Prof. Maurizio Cellura, Coordination committee of RUS, Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (Università di Palermo)

Panel Discussion

- Prof. Lolita Rubens – Vice-rector of Social Responsibility (UPEC)
- Dr. Hafdís Hanna Ægisdóttir – Director of the Sustainability Institute of the University of Iceland (UI)
- Prof. Maurizio Cellura – Coordination committee of RUS, Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (Università di Palermo)

Part 4: Preview of Afternoon Interactive Workshops

12:00 - 12:30

Closing Ceremony and Handover of the Aurora Flag

- Ramon Puras - Secretary General, Aurora
- Martin Schwell - Aurora Institutional Coordinator, UPEC
- Petra Günther, Aurora Institutional Coordinator, University of Duisburg-Essen

THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

14:00 - 16:00

EURIDICE Meeting
1st Floor - Room 114

14:00 - 17:00

Aurora Sustainability Summit 2025 Workshops
Futures Literacy Lab
1st Floor - Room 101

Aurora Sustainability Summit 2025 Workshops
Climate Fresco
1st Floor - Rooms 102, 103 and 104

Aurora Sustainability Summit 2025 Workshops
Biodiversity Fresco
1st Floor - Rooms 111 and 112

**END OF THE AURORA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 2025**

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

 Closed session



SESSIONS

OPENING CEREMONY

19 May 2025 at 17:00 to 19:00 (CET)
La Sorbonne - Amphithéâtre de Liard, Paris

OPENING SPEECHES



**PROF. JEAN-LUC
DUBOIS-RANDÉ**

Université Paris-Est Créteil



DR. RAMON PURAS

Aurora

HANDOVER OF AURORA PRESIDENCY



**PROF. MARTIN
PROCHÁZKA**

Palacký University Olomouc



**PROF. VERONIKA
SEXL**

Universität Innsbruck

OPENING CEREMONY

19 May 2025 at 17:00 to 19:00 (CET)
La Sorbonne - Amphithéâtre de Liard, Paris

HIGH-LEVEL TALK



**ELIZABETH
BLACKBURN**

Nobel Prize in Medicine
(2009)

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

19 May 2025 at 19:00 to 21:00 (CET)
Le Réfectoire des Cordeliers, Paris



**PROF. MARTIN
SCHWELL**

Université Paris-Est Créteil

DAY 1: OPENING

20 May 2025 at 09:00 to 10:30 (CET)
UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

WELCOME SPEECHES



SYLVIE SIMON-DECK

City of Créteil



PROF. VERONIKA SEXL

Universität Innsbruck

PLENARY SESSION

20 May 2025 at 09:00 to 10:30 (CET)

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

European University Alliances have undoubtedly become one of the cornerstones of the European Higher Education Area. Among them, the Aurora, established in 2016, is now advancing through its second alliance programme, Aurora 2030. This session will offer a timely reflection on the current landscape of the 65 European Universities Alliances, considering their origins and exploring their future trajectories. We find ourselves at a pivotal moment: a time to take stock of achievements to date while also shaping strategic directions and concrete actions for the years ahead.

For Aurora, this discussion is particularly relevant, as we are currently developing our new Strategic Plan. To enrich the conversation, we have invited high-level representatives from the European Commission, the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and three different university alliances. We look forward to a vibrant exchange of perspectives and new insights that will help guide the next phase of European university collaboration.



**DR. SUSANNE
CONZE**

European Commission
DG EAC



**PROF. FABIENNE
PERALDI LENEUF**

Una Europa



PROF. DUGAN O'NEIL

Simon Fraser University



DAVID ITIER

French Ministry of Higher
Education & Research

PLENARY SESSION

20 May 2025 at 09:00 to 10:30 (CET)

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



**DR. RAMON
PURAS**

Aurora



**SABINE ALLAIN
SAINTE-ROSE**

ENGAGE.EU



MIRANDA PRYNNE

Times Higher Education
Moderator

PLENARY SESSION

20 May 2025 at 11:00 to 12:30 (CET)

AURORA ACHIEVEMENTS POSTER SESSION

This poster session proudly presents Aurora's key projects and achievements. Representatives from the participating Aurora universities will present their work, highlighting the breadth and impact of all they have achieved thus far. We aim to inspire both the Aurora community and our host university, sparking new ideas and fostering future collaborations.



DAY 2: OPENING

21 May 2025 at 09:00 to 10:30 (CET)
UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

WELCOME SPEECH



**PROF. LAURENT
GAMET**

Université Paris-Est Créteil

PLENARY SESSION

21 May 2025 at 09:00 to 10:30 (CET)

BUILDING SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES IN AURORA

One of our major aims is to build interdisciplinary transnational scientific communities at the cross roads between research, education and outreach. To this end, Aurora has established five academic hubs on the following themes: *Sustainability and Climate Change; Digital Society and Global Citizenship; Health and Well-being; Culture, Identities and Diversities; Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation*. Hubs are flexible and evolving structures, open to new themes with emerging priorities and transversal challenges. They are responsive to bottom-up initiatives from within the Aurora community.

In 2024, seven research projects have been seed-funded in a bottom-up approach, following Aurora's first call for incentive research collaboration. Some of these new projects will be presented in this session by their principal investigators. Following the presentations, we will discuss the integration of these newly created communities in Aurora, and how to enable them to proceed towards tangible, long lasting projects in research & education.



PROF. LOLITA RUBENS
Université Paris-Est Créteil



DR. EMILIE FRENKIEL
Université Paris-Est Créteil



**DR. ROMANA
KLÁŠTERECKÁ**
Palacký University
Olomouc



**PROF. SIMONE
MOSER**
Universität Innsbruck

PLENARY SESSION

21 May 2025 at 09:00 to 10:30 (CET)

BUILDING SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITIES IN AURORA



**PROF. BING
WU**

University of Iceland



**PROF. BARBARA
BUCHENAU**

University of Duisburg-Essen
Moderator



**PROF. MATTHIAS
BEEKMANN**

Université Paris-Est Créteil
Moderator

PLENARY SESSION

21 May 2025 at 11:00 to 12:30 (CET)

EMPOWERING VOICES: ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS' RIGHTS ACROSS EUROPE

During this plenary session, student representatives from the Aurora Student Council (ASC) and Aurora Student Ambassadors programme will be providing an overview of three different ways of tackling this topic. First, through collaboration with the European Student Union (ESU), which is actively advocating for students' rights at the European Parliament. Second, is via the creation of the students' rights charter. Third, is by building strong relationships between the ASC and student unions from Aurora universities.



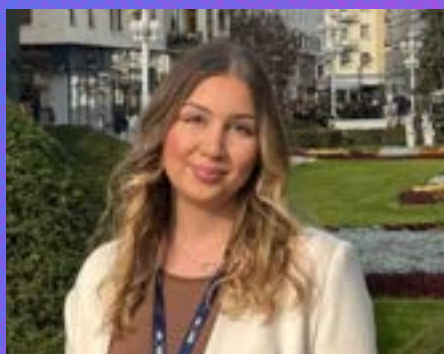
MATHILDE CHAUMONT

ASC President
Université Paris-Est Créteil



SÖREN DAEHN

ASC Vice-president
Copenhagen Business School



SIMONA GIBALOVÁ

ASC Member
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University
in Košice

PLENARY SESSION

21 May 2025 at 11:00 to 12:30 (CET)

**EMPOWERING VOICES: ADVOCATING FOR STUDENTS' RIGHTS
ACROSS EUROPE**



SIMON WESTHOFF

Aurora Student Ambassador
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



HANUŠ PATERA

Former ASC President
Student staff at CBS
Moderator

AURORA SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

The Aurora Sustainability Summit will be an inspiring event that brings together the Aurora universities to champion sustainability across the network. This summit aims to raise awareness, highlight best practices, and motivate participants to take meaningful action. Morning sessions will feature updates from the Sustainable Campus task team, showcase successful sustainability initiatives from across Aurora, and explore how networks can drive sustainability within their member organisations. Afternoon sessions include three parallel workshops: Futures Literacy Lab, Climate Fresco, and Biodiversity Fresco. During these interactive workshops, participants will be introduced to innovative tools and methods that can be applied in their institutions or teaching practices. The Aurora Sustainability Summit offers researchers, students, and administrative staff members a unique opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and contribute to building a greener, more resilient future for all.

22 May 2025 at 09:00 to 09:30 (CET)

WELCOME AND SETTING THE STAGE



PROF. VERONIKA SEXL
Universität Innsbruck

AURORA SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY



ZUZANA HUNKOVÁ
Palacký University Olomouc

AURORA SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

22 May 2025 at 09:30 to 10:00 (CET)

MAKING THE CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY: GOOD PRACTICES FROM AURORA

International and Interdisciplinary Community Service Learning for Sustainability



**PROF. MARJOLEIN
ZWECKHORST**

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

22 May 2025 at 09:30 to 10:30 (CET)

Re-thinking Food Systems in the Anthropocene: An Educational Experience in Naples



DR. RAMON RISPOLI

Università Federico II of
Naples



BENEDETTA TOLEDO

Università Federico II of
Naples

AURORA SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

22 May 2025 at 10:30 to 12:00 (CET)

THE VALUE OF NETWORKS FOR ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY

Keynote Speech and Panel Discussion



**PROF. MAURIZIO
CELLURA**

Università di Palermo
Keynote Speaker



**DR. HAFDÍS HANNA
ÆGISDÓTTIR**

University of Iceland



**PROF. LOLITA
RUBENS**

Université Paris-Est Créteil

AURORA SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

22 May 2025 at 10:30 to 12:00 (CET)

PREVIEW OF AFTERNOON INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AND CLOSING REMARKS



FUTURES LITERACY LAB

Futures Literacy is a cutting-edge capability that empowers individuals and organizations to anticipate, explore, and shape the future with creativity and confidence. At its core, it challenges traditional approaches to uncertainty by fostering innovative ways of thinking about tomorrow.

During the "Futures of Teaching" lab, participants will engage in a hands-on, collaborative experience to imagine and co-create transformative possibilities for education. This interactive session is designed to spark inspiration, reveal hidden assumptions, and equip participants with tools to navigate the complexities of future learning landscapes. Explore the art of "using the future" to reimagine teaching!



CLIMATE FRESCO

In order to take action and build solutions, we first need to understand the problem. The Climate Fresco is a powerful tool for providing a quality climate education. It is accessible to anyone and can be scaled quickly within an organisation or community. In just 3 hours, the collaborative Climate Fresco workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action. Participants leave the workshop having formed a strong bond with each other, and are well equipped to implement the climate actions that they have identified.



BIODIVERSITY FRESCO

"The global rate of species extinction is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than the average rate over the past 10 million years and is accelerating." (IPBES, 2019).

Discover, through a fun and collaborative workshop, the systemic aspects of biodiversity: what it is, what it enables and what degrades it. Divided into groups of 5-7, recreate an ecosystem and discover the impacts of human disturbance within it. Find the links between the 39 cards, distributed in 5 lots. Decorate and find a title for the Collage in order to present your work to the other groups. Reflect on learnings and collectively develop an action plan to stop biodiversity loss. The debrief is adapted to the objectives of each workshop.

CLOSING CEREMONY

22 May 2025 at 12:00 to 12:30 (CET)
UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

CLOSING REMARKS



DR. RAMON PURAS
Aurora

HANDOVER OF THE AURORA FLAG



PROF. MARTIN SCHWELL
Université Paris-Est Créteil



PETRA GÜNTHER
University of Duisburg-Essen

A modern, multi-story building with large glass windows and a flat roof, partially obscured by a blue and purple gradient overlay. The text is centered over the building.

WORKSHOPS, WORK PACKAGE & TASK TEAM MEETINGS

TUESDAY, 20 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

TT 1.2: Quality Assurance, Quality Control (Stephensen)

This session aims to engage all WP leads in shaping the practical role of the Quality Control (QC) collaboratively. The TT supports Aurora 2030's quality assurance by advising on processes, sharing best practices, and reviewing evaluation reports. The main role is to draft terms of reference, ensuring alignment with WP leaders' existing responsibilities.

16:30 - 17:30

1st Floor

Room 114

WP 2: Transdisciplinary European Research Driven Educational Hub (Buchenau, Raab, Sellitto)

This session will initiate a process to co-create/further develop a common Aurora-wide understanding (trans hub/trans WP/TT) of what is meant by “joint education” within Aurora. Collaboration and co-creation with Work Packages 3, 4, 8 and Task Team 6.1.

14:00 - 16:00

1st Floor

Room 101

TT 4.2: LOUIS Competence Framework – How Can It Help You? (Tomoszek)

This networking workshop (open) will focus on how the LOUIS competence tool can enhance educational activities across Aurora 2030 work packages. Participants will discuss potential synergies and identify practical steps for integrating LOUIS into their work. The session aims to connect the LOUIS Expert Team with other task teams, providing resources for implementation.

14:00 - 16:00

1st Floor

Room 102

TT 4.3: South-South and Triangular Collaboration (Snelder, di Prima, Koch, Thévenet)

This TT 4.3 working session (closed) will reflect on past results and discuss the expansion of SSTC. Key outcomes include an action plan and decision on dissemination (journal, social media).

14:00 - 16:00

1st Floor

Room 103

WP 5: Aurora Research and Innovation Community (Beekmann, Jonson, Haettich)

This closed meeting will bring together task teams from WP 5 to review progress and discuss strategies to create a research community within Aurora, focusing on funding, grant models, research tools, and implementing COARA recommendations.

The goal is to develop a shared vision and launch the Aurora alliance grant office to foster joint projects across universities.

14:00 - 16:00

1st Floor

Room 104

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boule, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

WP 2: SDGs Methodologies Seminar (Penagos, Maffia, Catalanotti)

This open hybrid seminar will explore SDG methodologies in higher education, concluding a webinar series. Featuring UNESCO and Aurora experts, it includes keynotes, discussions on Open Science, and student-led sessions. The goal is to enhance the visibility of Aurora's SDG initiatives, foster collaboration between researchers, students, and stakeholders, and produce a report on SDG methodologies.

14:00 - 18:00
Auditorium A1

TT 2.1 and TT 2.5: Micro-Credentials & Recognition (Raab, Sellitto)

This open session will explore how micro-credentials and the principle of material difference can innovate teaching and improve recognition. Participants will assess recognition feasibility through a case study. The goal in Paris is to advance recognition practices and lay the groundwork for future workshops across Aurora universities.

14:00 - 15:30
1st Floor
Room 101

TT 3.1, TT 3.2 and TT 3.3: seismic Activities & Award Winners (Huske, Hockerts, Kuhr)

This workshop (TT 3.1, 3.2, 3.3) will feature 2024 seismic Award winners sharing their experiences with the seismic App and competition. The goal is to showcase student achievements and educator contributions.

14:00 - 15:00
1st Floor
Room 102

TT 3.4: Regional Stakeholders Engagement Strategy (Malacka, Simackova)

This session will refine the Regional Stakeholders Engagement Strategy and outline next steps. The goal in Paris is to finalize adjustments and clarify specific needs through in-person discussions.

15:00 - 15:30
1st Floor
Room 102

TT 4.1: Engaging the Community in Education: Service Learning to Citizen Science (Zweeckhorst)

This open workshop will inspire Aurora staff to implement service learning and Citizen Science courses. Participants will explore examples from Aurora universities and discuss how to engage more staff in these activities. A world café session will help identify potential collaborators for future projects.

14:00 - 15:30
1st Floor
Room 103

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boule, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

TT 4.2: Education for Sustainable Development (Pálsdóttir)

The session will introduce workshops in University of Iceland where academic teachers used the LOUIS competence framework as a source of ideas to design an evaluation rubric for single assignments to give students targeted quality feedback.

16:00 - 17:30

1st Floor

Room 103

TT 5.1: Workshop on Research Impact Assessment (Ataci, Schwell, Haettich)

This open session will focus on the challenges and opportunities of research impact assessment within Aurora universities. Participants will discuss current practices, share insights from recent projects, and explore ways to create a unified framework for evaluating academic merit. The goal is to align with the COARA agreement and establish a collaborative approach to assess research impact across the Aurora network.

14:00 - 15:30

1st Floor

Room 104

TT 5.3: Support and Infrastructure for Open Science (Vanderfeesten, Bosch, Beekmann)

This open meeting aims to improve the Aurora Research Monitor by focusing on key topics like open science and the gender publication gap. Participants will prioritise topics, create useful charts, and identify data sources and technical challenges. The goal is to make the Monitor more effective for policy decisions and research.

16:00 - 17:30

1st Floor

Room 104

TT 7.3: Capacity Development Programme in CEE (Porobić, Khyzhniak)

This meeting will present the results of the Aurora Capacity Development Programme, focusing on the last 1.5 years. The goal is to strengthen collaborations, increase visibility, and foster partnerships within the Aurora 2030 programme. A brief plenary presentation will invite wider collaboration across Aurora.

14:00 - 15:30

1st Floor

Room 114

TT 7.4: Creation of Aurora Karazin University Peace Education HUB (Porobić, Capek, Khyzhniak)

This closed working meeting will focus on discussing the progress of the Aurora Karazin Peace Education Hub, including milestones such as the international conference and training preparation. Key outcomes: report from the conference, evaluation of the first training session, and course module plans for 2025/2026. Additionally, a poster presentation will be held to share results.

16:00 - 17:30

1st Floor

Room 114

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boule, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

WP 8: Enabling Mobility and Exchange – Workshop on Internationalisation at Home (Vives Cabré)

This workshop (open) will explore Internationalisation at Home (IaH), curriculum internationalisation, and inclusivity. Participants will discuss the importance of inclusivity in higher education and how to implement it. The goal is to foster a Community of Practice across Aurora institutions. A brief plenary will highlight how these concepts complement mobility and exchange.

14:00 - 15:30
1st Floor
Room 112

TT 9.3: Aurora Values Meeting and Launch of Communities of Practice (Maas)

This closed session will launch the Aurora Communities of Practice (CoPs) focused on Sustainability, Societal Change-making, and Collaboration. The goal is to align expertise and outline how the CoPs will operate. The result is the successful launch of the CoPs, with the Aurora Values document signed by the presidents of Aurora universities.

14:00 - 16:00
1st Floor
Room 111

TT 10.2: Science and Society (Cruz de Carvalho)

This session will focus on best practices in Science and Society within Aurora, especially Citizen Science and SwafS initiative. The aim is to raise awareness of task's goals and expand the network of participants.

14:00 - 15:30
1st Floor
Room 115

Workshop: Strengthening Research Security - Sharing Practices and Developing an Exchange Agenda (Lasage)

This session will focus on sharing best practices for research security and discussing how Aurora universities can collaborate on this topic. The goal is to raise awareness, appoint contact persons for research security, and agree on a plan for joint learning and future cooperation.

16:00 - 17:30
1st Floor
Room 112

EURIDICE Joint Master Programme Digital Society, Social Innovation and Global Citizenship

16:00 - 17:30
1st Floor
Room 101

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

THURSDAY, 22 MAY 2025

UPEC, Campus André Boulle, Law Faculty - 85 Avenue du
Général de Gaulle, 94000 Créteil

PARALLEL SESSIONS – BUILDING A

Futures Literacy Lab

Futures Literacy is a cutting-edge capability that empowers individuals and organizations to anticipate, explore, and shape the future with creativity and confidence. At its core, it challenges traditional approaches to uncertainty by fostering innovative ways of thinking about tomorrow.

During the "Futures of Teaching" lab, participants will engage in a hands-on, collaborative experience to imagine and co-create transformative possibilities for education. This interactive session is designed to spark inspiration, reveal hidden assumptions, and equip participants with tools to navigate the complexities of future learning landscapes. Explore the art of "using the future" to reimagine teaching!

14:00 - 17:00

1st Floor

Room 101

Climate Fresco

In order to take action and build solutions, we first need to understand the problem. The Climate Fresco is a powerful tool for providing a quality climate education. It is accessible to anyone and can be scaled quickly within an organisation or community. In just 3 hours, the collaborative Climate Fresco workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action. Participants leave the workshop having formed a strong bond with each other, and are well equipped to implement the climate actions that they have identified.

14:00 - 17:00

1st Floor

Room 102

Room 103

Room 104

Biodiversity Fresco

"The global rate of species extinction is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than the average rate over the past 10 million years and is accelerating." (IPBES, 2019).

Discover, through a fun and collaborative workshop, the systemic aspects of biodiversity: what it is, what it enables and what degrades it. Divided into groups of 5-7, recreate an ecosystem and discover the impacts of human disturbance within it. Find the links between the 39 cards, distributed in 5 lots. Decorate and find a title for the Collage in order to present your work to the other groups. Reflect on learnings and collectively develop an action plan to stop biodiversity loss. The debrief is adapted to the objectives of each workshop.

14:00 - 17:00

1st Floor

Room 111

Room 112

EURIDICE Meeting

14:00 - 16:00

1st Floor

Room 114

*Open for Aurora participants.
Upon invitation for UPEC participants.

Closed session

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with large glass windows and a flat roof. A tree is in the foreground, and the sky is blue with some clouds. The image has a blue and purple color gradient overlay.

SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS



Dr. Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir is the Director of the Sustainability Institute at the University of Iceland. She holds over 25 years of international experience in sustainability, environmental education and leadership. She earned her PhD in Plant Ecology from the University of Basel in Switzerland. Passionate about sustainable leadership, she has inspired change through education, collaboration and a deep commitment to a better future.



Matthias Beekmann is research director at CNRS in France. He is working in atmospheric sciences on issues of air quality and its link to climate change. He co-developed a numerical chemistry-transport model which is today widely used for air pollution forecast, scenario calculations of mitigation measures, and scientific purposes. He (co-)organised several field campaigns in order to better understand formation process of so-called secondary pollutants (ozone, aerosol) chemically formed in the atmosphere from directly emitted primary pollutants. He was the first director of the Universe science observatory hosted at Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC), a research federation of environmental science laboratories. Matthias Beekmann is today assessor at UPEC for Aurora research and innovation. He is President of the Aurora Research Council.



ELIZABETH BLACKBURN

Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D. was recognized by the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her scientific discoveries in telomere biology. These have uncovered a new understanding of normal cell functioning and given rise to a still-growing field of inquiry. The research has led to implications spanning a range of disciplines, from biomedical and health research to societal policies.

Dr Blackburn was born and grew up in Tasmania, Australia, and educated in Australia before going to Cambridge University, UK, for her PhD. She was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale university, then a faculty member at the University of California Berkeley in 1978, and in 1990 moved to her current institution, the University of California San Francisco.

Dr. Blackburn is currently Professor Emerita in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of California San Francisco, and holds the Morris Herzstein Endowed Chair in Biology and Physiology at the University of California, San Francisco.

During her career as a scientific researcher, Dr. Blackburn has been recognized for her contributions to the field of telomere biology and its impact on human health and well-being. She has been awarded numerous prizes, awards, and honorary degrees. Among them are the 2006 Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research and elections to the US National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Institute of Medicine. In 2007, Time magazine named her one of the '100 Most Influential People in the World,' and in 2008 she was the North American Laureate for the L'Oreal_UNESCO For Women In Science. The scientific community bestowed upon her the ultimate recognition of her legacy by honoring Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn with the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Throughout her career, Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn has also served the scientific community in many ways. She has served in a scientific capacity on several international and national scientific advisory boards, including those of the interdisciplinary training program EUR LIVE (Universite Paris Est Creteil), and of Institut Imagine in Paris. She has advocated for stem cell research policies. She has been a consistent advocate for improving opportunities for women in careers in science. She has held leadership positions in several international scientific societies, including being elected President of the American Society for Cell Biology and President of the American Association for Cancer Research.



Barbara Buchenau is Professor of North American Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. Her most recent publications include *Narrative in Urban Planning: A Practical Field Guide* (co-authored with Lieven Ameel and Jens Martin Gurr, 2023) and *City Scripts: Narratives of Postindustrial Urban Futures* (OSUP, 2023). She served as UDE's Vice-Rector of Social Responsibility, Diversity and International Affairs (2018 – 2022), and has directed the inter-university graduate research group *Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures: American Models, Transatlantic Interventions* funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (2018 – 2023). She is a member of the Aurora European University Alliance, has been the lead of work package 3 on Learning for Societal Impact and is currently leading work package 2 on Transdisciplinary European Research-Driven Educational Hubs.

Buchenau is Professor of North American Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. Her most recent publications include three co-authored chapters on religious conversion and racial ambiguation (in *Ambiguität und Unterscheidung: Kaleidoskopische Betrachtungen*, edited by Benjamin Scheller and Marcel Müllerburg, 2024), the co-edited book *City Scripts: Narratives of Postindustrial Urban Futures* (OSUP, 2023) and *Narrative in Urban Planning: A Practical Field Guide* (co-authored with Lieven Ameel and Jens Martin Gurr, 2023). She served as Vice-Rector of Social Responsibility, Diversity and International Affairs at her institution (2018 – 2022), and has directed the inter-university graduate research group *Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures: American Models, Transatlantic Interventions* funded by the Volkswagen Foundation (2018 – 2024).



Maurizio Cellura is Professor of building physics and energy systems well as the Director of the Center for Sustainability and Ecological Transition at the University of Palermo. He is also a member of the National Coordination Committee of the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development.



Mathilde Chaumont is in the third year of her Bachelor Degree in Administration and International Exchange. She serves as an assessor for the Aurora European university alliance at the Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC). She is also President of the Aurora Student Council. Additionally, she is an elected student representative at the General Council of UPEC and serves as the Treasurer of the Fédération des Associations de Créteil, which is an association created to represent students and assist other associations by providing training for their members, among other student-focused activities.



Dr. Susanne Conze is Head of Unit for Higher education in the Directorate General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of the European Commission. The unit is the lead service for the development of the European Education Area's higher education dimension as well as devising and managing the higher education strand of the flagship Erasmus+ Programme via the National Agencies and the Executive Agency EACEA.

During her career, both in the Commission and before, Susanne worked in different areas of education and social inclusion policies as well as in the management of European education programmes. She studied history, sociology and political science and holds a PhD in history.



Jean-Luc Dubois-Randé has been President of Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC) since 2018. A medical doctor specialised in cardiology, he is a university professor at UPEC and a hospital practitioner in cardiology at Henri-Mondor Hospital since 1994. He also served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at UPEC from 2010 to 2018 and was President of the Conference of Deans of Medicine in France from 2016 to 2018. Jean-Luc's passion for medicine was further reinforced when he became Head of the Cardiology Department at Henri-Mondor Hospital since 2000. In addition, Jean-Luc Dubois-Randé has been the President of the Digital University in Health and Sports (UNESS) since 2020, and President of the UPEC Foundation since 2021.



Zuzana Hunková is Coordinator for Sustainable Development at Palacký University Olomouc, where she managed the creation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and respective Action Plans. Zuzana is also co-founder of the Association of Sustainability Managers of the Czech Republic and the Chairperson of the Local Agenda 21 and Smart City Commission of the City of Olomouc.



David Itier is Current Head of Unit, European Strategy of Research and Higher Education at the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research. He is also Science and Technology Counsellor, French Permanent Representation to the EU institutions. He serves as Chief of Staff to Institut Pasteur's DG Stewart Cole, and he is Coordinator of EU Affairs at Institut Pasteur.



Dr. Romana Klášterecká holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology (Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, 2008) and is a member of the Czech Anthropology Association. She is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences at Palacký University in Olomouc, where she is involved in faculty research focused on active aging, health promotion and disease prevention. In 2021–2023, she was in the team of coordinators for the Aurora project “Active Aging – a Healthy Lifestyle“, cooperating with URV, Spain, and the University of Košice, Slovak Republic. In 2023, she was invited to participate in the Visiting Researchers Program at the University of Ottawa (Canada) and held an invited talk on Active Aging there. Since then, she has been participating in the project “Brain – Heart Interconnectome“ (University of Ottawa).

She is the principal investigator of the international project NUTRIAGE24, supported by the Aurora Alliance, in collaboration with Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Spain) and the University of Iceland, focusing on healthy aging and nutrition across different European contexts. She has published a book chapter, several academic articles, and is a reviewer of international journals.



Prof. Dr. Simone Moser holds a degree in Chemistry from the University of Innsbruck, where she completed her PhD focusing on the isolation and structural characterization of natural compounds. Her postdoctoral research at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) centered on elucidating the modes of action of small molecules.

Following her postdoctoral studies, Dr. Moser joined the Analytical Development team at Novartis in Austria. She later returned to academia, establishing her research group within the Chair of Pharmaceutical Biology at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU), where she completed her habilitation in 2022.

In September 2023, Dr. Moser was appointed Head of the Department of Pharmacognosy at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. Her research on the pharmaceutical properties of newly discovered natural products has earned her several prestigious awards, including the Blair-Curtius-Pfleiderer-Wachter Prize for Pteridinology (2020) and the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Prize from the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (2022).



Dugan O'Neil is an accomplished particle physicist who has played a leadership role in building Canada's digital research infrastructure within its diverse scientific community.

As Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Vice-President, Research and Innovation O'Neil leads SFU's strategic research initiatives and champions SFU's comprehensive innovation strategy across its eight faculties. He works to secure research and innovation partnerships with academia, industry and the community.

A key element of O'Neil's role focuses on knowledge mobilization by facilitating opportunities to transfer research discoveries to society and create a positive social, economic and environmental impact on the world stage.



Prof. MUDr. Martin Procházka, Ph.D. has served as the Rector of Palacký University Olomouc, after having been elected to this position in May 2021. Before assuming the position of Rector, Professor Procházka was the Dean of Palacký University's Faculty of Health Science.

A graduate of the Palacký University Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Professor Procházka is Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Since 1994 he has worked at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the UP Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and University Hospital Olomouc. Previously, he also headed the Department of Midwifery at the UP Faculty of Health Sciences. He gained professional experience during study stays and internships in Belgium, Sweden, and the Netherlands.



Moderator

Miranda Prynne is the editor of Campus, Times Higher Education (THE)'s platform for academics and university staff to share their professional insight and advice. She has been instrumental in the editorial strategy and growth of Campus, having joined THE in 2020 to support in the planning, launch and development of this product. In addition to its editorial output, Campus now has 75 partner institutions across more than 20 countries and five continents.

Prior to this, Miranda worked as a newspaper reporter, with stints on national titles including The Daily Telegraph and The Sun, and as a content marketing and media relations consultant representing clients across multiple industries.



Ramon Puras is the Secretary General of Aurora, a European network of universities dedicated to fostering social impact, sustainability, and academic excellence. In this role, he leads strategic initiatives that enhance transnational collaboration, institutional development, and higher education policy alignment at the European level. Before joining Aurora, Ramon held several leadership positions in Dutch higher education, including serving as Dean of the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Vice-Dean at the Amsterdam University College, where he played a key role in strengthening interdisciplinary education, global engagement, and academic innovation.

Ramon holds a PhD in Biochemistry and his passion for teaching the interdisciplinary course Gastronomy, the Art and Science of Cooking, reflects his blend of interests in science, cooking, and education.



Ramon Rispoli is Associate Professor of Design at the Department of Architecture, UNINA. Co-lead of the Aurora WP3 “Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation”.



Lolita Rubens is a Professor of Social Psychology at the Université Paris Est Créteil. She conducts applied research at LIRTES (Interdisciplinary research laboratory on transformations in educational and social practices). She is particularly interested in supporting behavior change, especially in the environmental field. She is also involved in these issues at university level through her role as Vice-president of social responsibility at the university.



Sabine Sainte-Rose is a seasoned leader in international education, with a career spanning 27 years across seven countries. In January 2025, she assumed the role of Secretary General for the ENGAGE.EU European University Alliance, where she connects governance bodies, working groups, and external partners to ensure strategic alignment and long-term impact.

She has previously served as Programme Director at the Aurora European University Alliance, led internationalisation endeavours at Université Grenoble Alpes, and held leadership roles within France's international cultural and cooperation network under the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, directing educational institutions across North America and Central Europe.

Sabine sits on the General Council of the European Association for International Education (EAIE) and is a long-standing member of its expert and trainer pool. She also contributes to the strategic advisory committee of the ERASME transformational project at Université Paris-Est Créteil and has held various volunteer mandates throughout her career.

Born in France, she now lives in Utrecht, Netherlands, and is passionate about the role of education in fostering global collaboration and transformation.



Martin Schwell is the Vice-President in charge of European Affairs at Université Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC). He has been a professor of physical chemistry at UPEC's Faculty of Science and Technology since 2013. He was its Vice-dean for International Relations between 2016 and 2022, and has worked for the international development of his Faculty.

Martin Schwell is an alumnus of the Freie Universität Berlin, where he studied and obtained his doctorate in 1998. He is currently attached to the Laboratoire Interuniversitaire des Systèmes Atmosphériques (LISA). He was head of the LISA Spectroscopy and Atmospheres group from 2011 to 2018. His research focuses on the ultraviolet spectroscopy of molecules of astrophysical and atmospheric interest. He has a passion for scientific events and has organised numerous international schools and workshops.



Veronika Sexl is a renowned cancer researcher specializing in tumor surveillance and signaling in leukemogenesis, with over 200 peer-reviewed publications and numerous awards. She maintains extensive international collaborations and serves on various boards, including the European Hematology Association (EHA). Since March 2023, Veronika Sexl is Rector of Universität Innsbruck.



Benedetta Toledo is PhD Candidate in Philosophy of Design at the Department of Humanities, Università Federico II of Naples. Within Aurora, she is a Member of the Aurora Student Council and also UNINA Trusted Local Communicator (TLC).



Bing Wu is currently a professor in the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Iceland. She has more than 20-year research experience in Singapore, US, and Iceland. Her research focuses on innovative water and wastewater treatment, resource recovery, and renewable energy via advanced membrane technology and environmental biotechnology. Her research activities include process design and testing, techno-economic analysis, and life cycle assessment, towards solving the challenges in “Water-Food-Energy” nexus and strengthening climate resilience.



Marjolein Zweekhorst is Professor for Innovation and Education in the health and life sciences at VU Amsterdam, where she is also Program Director for Biomedical Sciences and the head of the Community Service Learning Project.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE AURORA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025