

First Annual Transform4Europe PhD conference

“Societal Transformations and Sustainable Development with Respect to Environment in the Post Covid-19 Digital Era“

(An international multidisciplinary conference for PhD students and early-stage academics)

Call for Papers

8-9 December 2021

The Transform4Europe Alliance comprises seven universities from different regions in Europe:

- Saarland University (Germany)
- The University of Alicante (Spain)
- The Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia)
- The University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)
- Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria)
- The University of Trieste (Italy)
- Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)

Under the European Universities Initiative of the European Commission the Transform4Europe partners have set themselves the ambitious aim to forge a new type of transnational inter-university collaboration and contribute to the development of the European Education Area.

The **First annual Transform4Europe PhD conference** “Societal Transformations and Sustainable Development with Respect to Environment in the Post Covid-19 Digital Era“ will be hosted by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski over two days in Sofia on 8-9 December 2021.

Outstanding keynote speakers will deliver visionary and plenary speeches. Doctoral students and early-stage academics from **all scientific areas** are kindly invited to participate, showcase the results of their research work, engage in discussions with their peers and with established researchers. The participants will receive a certificate jointly issued by the Transform4Europe Alliance universities. The conference papers will be published in Conference Proceedings after scientific review.

Conference mode: Hybrid (onsite in Sofia and online via Zoom)

Please note that due to the dynamics of the COVID-19 situation it is possible that changes to the conference mode may occur.

Conference objectives:

The conference aims to

- encourage PhD students and young researchers (including outstanding MA students) to involve in research networks with their peers from the seven Transform4Europe Alliance partners
- provide a forum for exchange of innovative research ideas, knowledge-sharing and co-creation
- embed a culture of Open Science and a new approach to the scientific process based on openness, inclusiveness and cooperation.

Thematic scope:

The conference is thematically related to the three Transform4Europe focus areas.

- Societal transformation, community building and inclusion
- Digital transformation and smart regions
- Environmental Transformation and sustainability

Important dates

Submission of application forms: 20 November 2021

Confirmation of participation: 30 November 2021

Full paper submission: 15 December 2021

Language:

The official language of the conference is English

Conference fee: free

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME (Please check for updates*)

8 December 2021

10:00-10:30 Registration

10:30-10:35 Welcome by the Rector of Sofia University

10:35-11:20 Inaugural speech (TBC)

11:20-11:30 Discussion

*** Lunch break ***

13:00-13:30 Keynote speech on Digitalization (TBC)

13:30-15:00 Plenary Session 1

15:00-15:30 Break (coffee)

15:30-16:00 Keynote speech on Environment (TBC)

15:30-17:00 Plenary Session 2

9 December

09:30-10:00 Keynote speech on Social transformation (TBC)

10:00-11:30 Plenary Session 3

*** Lunch break ***

13:00-13:30 Keynote speech (TBC)

13:30-15:00 Interdisciplinary Plenary Session 4

15:00-16:00 Wrap of the conference

*Updates of the programme will be published at <http://transform4europe.eu/>