

A CIVIS & CIVICA International Conference Reflexivity in higher education: liberation or entrapment?

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Location: University of Bucharest & online (<https://zoom.us/j/94099357122>)
Rectorate Building (90 Panduri St., 050663 Bucharest, ROMANIA)
Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4Mv1gtyAjvTKzei6>
Amphitheatre "I. Mihailescu" (1st floor)

The **University of Bucharest**, in collaboration with the **CIVIS – Europe's Civic University Alliance**, **CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences**, and **King's College London**, is pleased to announce the conference on "**Reflexivity in Higher Education: Liberation or Entrapment?**" to be held on **14-15 October 2024**, in **Bucharest, Romania**. This conference is organised as part of the celebrations marking University of Bucharest's 160 years anniversary and 330 years of higher education in Romania. More information on the anniversary events can be found [here](#).

This conference will serve as a platform for scholars, academics, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and students to explore and debate the role of reflexivity in higher education. Reflexivity in the academe, the practice of self-examination and self-centred critical reflection regarding the organisation, governance, and activities of the university (including teaching and learning), is a crucial, albeit difficult to grasp, component of the higher education intellectual and policy milieu. This conference aims to investigate whether reflexivity acts as a vehicle for liberation, fostering innovation and individual and institutional advancements, or as a potential trap that complicates decision-making processes, policy implementation, or action altogether.

A significant highlight of the conference will be a special session dedicated to honouring the memory of the late **Professor Lazăr Vlăsceanu**. Educated in the UK, Lazăr Vlăsceanu was a distinguished sociologist of education, a transformative leader at the University of Bucharest, and a higher education trailblazer in Europe. His contributions to the field of higher education studies, including the topic of reflexivity, were remarkable. His work continues to inspire scholars and educators worldwide.

Conference Conveners

- **Liviu MATEI**, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society
King's College London
- **Mihai PĂUNESCU**, Vice-Rector
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest | CIVICA Alliance
- **Romiță IUCU**, President of the Board of Trustees
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance
- Conference Secretariat: **Alexandru CARTIȘ**, Head of CIVIS Education Unit
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Conference Format

The conference covers a range of topics, including theoretical frameworks and approaches to reflexivity in higher education, reflexivity in teaching and learning practices, the impact of reflexivity on educational policy and governance, case studies and practical applications of reflexive practices in universities, and the challenges and opportunities of reflexivity in higher education contexts. These topics will be explored through keynote speeches, presentations, roundtables, and panel discussions, fostering dynamic interactions and in-depth discussions among participants. The sessions are designed to provide a comprehensive exploration of the complexities of reflexivity in higher education.

Please note that all times in the conference agenda are listed in **Eastern European Time (EET)**. Please adjust for your local time zone accordingly.

DAY 1 – 14 October 2024

13:30-14:00 *Welcome Coffee & Registration*

Chair: **Romiță IUCU**, President of the Board of Trustees
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

14:00-14:30 **OPENING SESSION**

Marian PREDĂ, Rector
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Ligia DECA, Minister
Ministry of Education in Romania

Sorin COSTREIE, CIVIS Coordinator at UB
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Mihai PĂUNESCU, Vice-Rector
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest | CIVICA Alliance

14:30-15:15 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“Demystifying reflexivity in higher education scholarship and practice. Forms of liberation and entrapment”

Liviu MATEI, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society
King's College London

15:15-16:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“Social movement and techno-scientific project: dilemmas of the 21st-century University”

Sir Peter SCOTT, Emeritus Professor of Higher Education Studies
University College London

16:00-16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30-17:15 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

“Conceiving Reflexivity in Universities: a Resultant Social Political Force Approach”

François HEINDERYCKX, Advisor to the Rector for CIVIS
Université libre de Bruxelles | CIVIS Alliance

Chair: **Sorin COSTREIE**, CIVIS Coordinator at UB
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

17:15-18:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

“Reflexivity in higher education in the context of European Alliances”

Marie WITTAMER, CIVIS Executive Director
Aix-Marseille Université | CIVIS Alliance

Aurélien KREJBICH, CIVICA Executive Director
Sciences Po University | CIVICA Alliance

Horia ONIȚĂ, Head of Secretariat
European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

Sophia, PAPAIOANNOU, Vice-Rector
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens | CIVIS Alliance

Constantin VICĂ, Vice-Rector
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Mihai PĂUNESCU, Vice-Rector
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest | CIVICA Alliance

19:00-21:00 COCKTAIL DINNER

*"Dimitrie Brândză" Botanical Garden
32 Cotroceni St., 060114 Bucharest, ROMANIA
Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8sZREvth3UCCgN829>*

DAY 2 – 15 October 2024

09:00-09:30 Welcome Coffee & Registration

Chair: **Bogdan MURGESCU**, Vice-Rector
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

09:30-10:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Reflexivity: also For Higher Education Policy?"

Sjur BERGAN, Independent Expert
Education Department, Council of Europe (retired)

Chair: **Lucian CIOLAN**, Vice-Rector
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

10:15-11:30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

"Rethinking reflexivity in higher education: vision and practice"

Ioan PÂNZARU, Former Rector
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Leland BARROWS, Professor
Voorhees University

Bogdan MURGESCU, Vice-Rector
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Anna WILSON, Reader
University of Glasgow | CIVIS Alliance

Adrienn NYIRCSÁK, Independent Researcher, Yehuda Elkana Fellow
Central European University, Vienna

Liviu ANDREESCU, Professor
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Viorel PROTEASA, Lecturer
West University of Timișoara | UNITA Alliance

11:30-12:00 *Coffee Break*

Chair: **Liviu MATEI**, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society
King's College London

12:00-13:20 **COMMEMORATIVE SESSION**

"Lazăr Vlăsceanu: Shaping reflexive modernity in higher education"

13:20-13:30 **CONFERENCE CLOSING**

Liviu MATEI, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society
King's College London

Romiță IUCU, President of the Board of Trustees
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

Conference Secretariat:

Alexandru CARTIȘ, Head of CIVIS Education Unit
University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance

13:30-14:30 **CLOSING LUNCH AT VENUE**
