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University Twinning and
Networking Programme



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French National Commission

3-4 November 2022



TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE FOR JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

An international conference to mark
the 30th anniversary of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Background

Established in 1992, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme is an inter-sectoral network to mobilize and share the expertise of higher education institutions to address complex interdependent development challenges. It promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. The 850 university chairs and UNITWIN research networks from over 110 countries represent a unique resource for intellectual and scientific cooperation at national, regional and global levels. They play a key strategic role in strengthening the connections between knowledge, research, education, and development policies. As the world faces multiple overlapping social, economic, political, technological and environmental disruptions, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme is needed more than ever to advance the mission of UNESCO and its unique role in the United Nations system.

This 30th anniversary conference will celebrate the accomplishments over the last three decades and advance authentic interdisciplinary dialogues and the cross-sectoral mobilization needed to confront complex challenges on the horizon. Dedicated to the theme of “*Transforming knowledge for just and sustainable futures*”, the two-day event is grounded in the spirit of scientific, moral, intellectual, and academic solidarity.

The conference is also an opportunity for networking to strengthen collaboration among members and with the UNESCO sector programmes.

Objectives

1. **Recognize the accomplishments of the past thirty years both collectively and by individual members of the network.**

Celebration and the recognition of accomplishments from across the past 30 years will be woven through the event, with attention focused on the ways that the Programme has generated knowledge and ideas that matter, strengthened capacities, enriched international and inter-cultural cooperation, and promoted intellectual solidarity.

2. **Invigorate greater interdisciplinary cooperation by catalyzing new joint programmes of research, education and foresight.**

The conference will also serve as a platform for generating foresight and to mapping out the further evolution of the Programme. It will feature special sessions on developing foresight within and across UNESCO sectors.

Participants

Current members of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme and institutional representatives from participating higher education institutions are invited to attend, as well as representatives of Category II Centres, Permanent Delegations and National Commissions.

A limited number of conference bursaries will be available to support the travel of Chairholders and Network Coordinators from low-income countries. More information shall be provided on the [UNITWIN home page](#). UNESCO also strongly encourages universities with funding possibilities to consider sponsoring the travel of collaborators and partners from the Global South.

Provisional agenda

Day One – Thursday 3 November 2022

10:00-10:30	Welcome coffee
10:30-12:00	OPENING CEREMONY (Room I)
12:00-14:00	Lunch / Networking
14:00-15:30	LOOKING BACK- ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME
16:00-17:30	Concurrent Sessions (6) organized by thematic clusters and networks to reflect on accomplishments of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks – and to identify knowledge gaps and next steps (Rooms II, IV, VI, VII, VIII & IX).
18:00-20:00	CULTURAL PERFORMANCE / ANNIVERSARY COCKTAIL

Day Two – Friday 4 November 2022

9:00-10:30

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2050

Concurrent Sessions (Rooms II, IV, VI, VII, VIII & IX)

Additional sessions organized by thematic clusters and networks, with emphasis on opportunities and obstacles to transforming knowledge for just and sustainable futures.

10:45-12:15

THE FUTURE OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY

High-level Roundtable on the Future of Interdisciplinarity (Room I)

12:15-14:00

Lunch / Networking

14:00-15:30

GENERATING FORESIGHT

Concurrent sessions organized by Programme Sectors

16:00-17:30

CONFERENCE CLOSING (Room I)