

Transforming Knowledge for Just and Sustainable Futures  
International UNESCO Chairs Conference (Paris, 3-4 Nov. 2022)

### Provisional agenda

**Side event: Regional meeting of UNESCO chairs and networks in Europe: Addressing complex interdisciplinary challenges through knowledge sharing and cross-disciplinary cooperation of Chairs**

*3 November 2022, Room IV (13:00-14:15)*

### **BACKGROUND**

Many of today's most pressing challenges such as climate change or the COVID 19 pandemic need more than one approach and one area of expertise from multiple disciplines in order to address them. One of UNESCO's advantages within the larger UN system is its capacity to harness its multi-disciplinary expertise, together with its networks, to address complex challenges through its 5 areas of competence and its 5 functions (laboratory of ideas, clearing house, standard setter, catalyst for international cooperation, capacity builder).

The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme is one of these interdisciplinary networks. However, the incredible potential of the chairs network, notably in the European region has not yet been fully realized. Indeed, the regional network of European chairs consolidate diverse expertise and knowledge of UNESCO chairs and networks in Europe for more interdisciplinary collaboration.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe in collaboration with Futures of Learning and Innovation (FLI) of the Education Sector is organizing this side event to highlight best practices of interdisciplinary actions and identify how Chairs can best contribute to UNESCO's addressing today's most complex challenges.

The event will build upon the key outcomes of the First Regional meeting of the UNESCO science-related chairs and centers for South-East Europe and part of the Mediterranean that took place in Venice from 26-28 October 2022, which mobilized 28 chairs and centers from 8 countries from the region.

The side event will explore the role of chairs in knowledge sharing and improving connections between UNESCO's areas of competence. The side event aims to facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue, catalyze interdisciplinary research and promote cooperation of UNESCO chairs, as well as propose innovative solutions to increase the impact of the work of chairs in Europe, and contribute to transformation of the knowledge commons.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1- Highlight key interdisciplinary challenges that the UNESCO Chairs network can join forces to address.
- 2- Establish interdisciplinary dialogue among the UNESCO Chairs network in Europe by showcasing good practices, sharing knowledge, mapping available resources and identifying gaps.

- 3- Explore possibilities for joint cross-disciplinary and collaborative research and identify innovative approaches to addressing complex interdisciplinary challenges

**PARTICIPANTS**

The event will bring together UNESCO chairs and associated stakeholders from Europe.

**ORGANIZER**

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Futures of Learning and Innovation (FLI), Education Sector, UNESCO

**EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

- A strengthened network of UNESCO chairs in the region
- Agreement between chairs to collaborate across disciplines in the region
- Agreement on how best to sustain the collaborative work at regional level (knowledge platform, working groups, joint projects)

**AGENDA**

	<b>Welcoming</b>
	<b>Setting the scene</b>
	<b>Key outcomes of the SC chairs meeting in Europe and joint declaration</b>
	<b>Discussion on best practices of interdisciplinary collaboration between chairs in Europe</b>
	<b>Follow up actions and looking forward</b>
	<b>Concluding remarks</b>