

UniWells project consortium cordially invites you to

SYMPOSIUM

**Welcoming universities: Towards high-quality support for
international academics
in Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe**

21 June 2023

Bratislava, Slovakia

Background

The attractiveness of higher education institutions to global talent depends on their ability to provide quality assistance to international students and staff throughout their stay. Offering a supportive and stimulating environment to international academics based on a welcome culture is key not only for their professional and personal growth and willingness to stay, but also for their contribution to the university's goals in teaching, research and service to society.

Assistance to international academics at various mobility stages is a complex mission which involves a broad range of general and more specialised issues and requires a close collaboration between different actors. This final UniWells conference will present the key lessons learnt from this three-year project in terms of building comprehensive approaches to quality support services for international PhD students and academics in Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

It will provide an opportunity to share good practice and benefit from the multiple resources developed by the UniWells partners to support professional development of staff involved in the attraction and support of international PhD students and researchers.

Draft agenda

9:30 – 10:30	Registration and morning coffee
10:30 – 10:45	Opening and overview of the UniWeliS project outcomes Karla Zimanova, SAIA, Slovakia
BLOCK I: INTERNATIONALISATION AS A STRATEGIC GOAL FOR UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT	
10:45 – 11:00	Attraction and support of international PhD students and academics: state of play in CE-SE Europe Veronika Kupriyanova, ACA, Belgium
11:00 – 11:15	Discussion
11:15 – 12:00	Comprehensive approach to upgrading processes and services provided to international PhD students and academics - UniweliS App Explorer session Milan Zdravkovic, University of Nis, Serbia Silvia Kotulicova, SAIA, Slovakia
12:00 – 12:45	LUNCH
12:45 – 14:15	Panel discussion: How to advance in building a welcoming environment towards international campus – best practice at policy, programme and institutional level Moderator: Veronika Kupriyanova, ACA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zuzana Kovacicova, Unit for Integration of Information Systems, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia • Magdalena Jędrkiewicz, HR Department, National Centre for Nuclear Research, Poland • Orsolya Jánosik, Tempus Public Foundation, Hungary • Roxana Diaconescu, Office for Global Cooperation, International Students and Diaspora, University of West Timisoara, Romania • Julia Taucher, Coordination Welcome centre, University of Graz, Austria
14:15 – 14:30	COFFEE BREAK
BLOCK II: CAPACITY-BUILDING OF SUPPORT STAFF	
14:30 – 15:30	International support staff training portfolio by UniWeliS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanna Laskowska, NAWA, Poland • Svetlana Dimitrova, Sofia University, Bulgaria • Milan Zdravkovic, University of Nis, Serbia
15:30 – 16:30	Panel discussion: Why and how to support the administrative staff in their professional development towards internationalisation Moderator: Milan Zdravkovic, University of Nis, Serbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ales Oven, University of Primorska, Slovenia • Anna Mittnerova, Department of International Relations, The University of Chemistry and Technology Prague, Czech Republic • Maria Unger, OeAD, Austria • IROS Forum, Poland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Svetlana Dimitrova, National EURAXESS coordinator, Sofia university, Bulgaria
16:30 – 16:40	Conclusions
16:40 – 17:30	Farewell refreshments
17:40 – 19:00	Bratislava tour
19:00 - 21:00	Self-paid dinner