

ENGAGE.EU ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 INCLUSIVE COMPETITIVENESS FOR A STRONGER EUROPE

Barcelona, 21-23 October 2026

Wednesday, 21 October 2026

Blanquerna School of Psychology, Education and Sports Sciences – URL (c. Císter, 24-34. 08022 Barcelona)

11.00	Guided visit: Sagrada Família		Guided visit: Casa Batlló		Guided walk: Gothic quarter		Guided walk: Modernist Barcelona			
ENGAGE.EU 2.0: WHERE WE ARE										
13.30	Registration & welcome coffee Participants arrive, register, and reconnect in an informal setting									
14.00	Annual conference opening [URL rector, URL Deputy rector, ENGAGE.EU Secretary General] Official opening of the conference with welcome remarks from URL (as host institution and GB chair) and ENGAGE.EU Secretary General. This session sets the tone of the conference, presenting its objectives and highlighting key milestones of the Alliance.									
14.30	ENGAGE.EU 2.0: State of the art. Where are we? [All WP representatives] Overview of current progress, achievements and challenges of ENGAGE.EU 2.0.									
15.00	ENGAGE.EU 2.0: Impact Report Presentation [WP7 coordinators] Presentation of results achieved and discussion on future priorities and impact pathways.									
15.30	Coffee break									
16.00	AB Learning AB meeting. Contents tbd by AB chairs	AB Research AB meeting. Contents tbd by AB chairs AB Societal Engagement AB meeting. Contents tbd by AB chairs	WP2-3 WP meeting. Contents tbd by WP coordinators	WP4-5 Work package meeting. Contents tbd by WP coordinators	WP6 Work package meeting. Contents tbd by WP coordinators	WP7 Work package meeting. Contents tbd by WP coordinators	Board of Learners Board of Learners meeting. Contents tbd by BoL chair	Management Team Management Team meeting. Contents tbd.	Governing Board (rectors only)	Associated Partners
17.30	Free time*									
19.00	Reception at Barcelona City Hall Institutional reception to welcome participants to Barcelona and strengthen international and local connections.									
20.00	Welcome dinner (finger food) Informal networking dinner to build community at Barcelona City Hall									

* In parallel, from 18:00 to 22:00, the ENGAGE.EU Practitioner Programme Demo Day will be held in the city centre (Antiga Fàbrica Estrella Damm, c. Rosselló, 515). All participants are invited to join (prior registration required).

Thursday, 22 October 2026

La Salle Campus Barcelona – URL (c. Sant Joan de la Salle, 42. 08022 Barcelona)

ENGAGE.EU 2.0: WHAT WE STILL NEED TO DO					
8.30	Registration & welcome coffee				
9.00	European University Alliances. A transformative initiative for the European University Landscape [Josep M. Garrell, president of the European Universities Association] Presentation of the strategic evolution of European university alliances and their role in shaping the future of higher education in Europe.				Associated Partners Associated Partners parallel meeting.
9.45	Round table: Getting inspired by other European Universities Alliances [Representatives of other European Universities Alliances] Discussion with representatives from other alliances, focusing on shared challenges, good practices and innovative approaches in areas such as joint programmes, microcredentials, next call+2, etc.			Governing Board + Area Board chairs	
11.00	Coffee break				
11.30	Round table: Labour market: What talent do employers expect from universities? [Representatives of university, Associated Partners and Alumni] (tbc) Dialogue between academia and external stakeholders on societal challenges and collaboration opportunities				Governing Board + Executive Committee
13.00	Photo time!				
13.15	Lunch				
ENGAGE.EU 2.0: WHAT WE LOOK FOR					
14.00	Area Learning [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts] Discussion on next call	Area Research [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts] Discussion on next call	Area Societal Engagement [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts] Discussion on next call	Governing Board + Governance Task Force (tbc)	Associated Partners Associated Partners parallel meeting. Contents tbd by T6.2
15.30	Coffee break				
16.00	Area Learning [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts] Discussion on next call	Area Research [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts] Discussion on next call	Area Societal Engagement [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts] Discussion on next call	Governing Board + International Advisory Board	Associated Partners Associated Partners parallel meeting. Contents tbd by T6.2
17.30	Free time				
20.00	Dinner				
22.00	Rauxa Informal after-dinner gathering inspired by the Catalan expression “seny i rauxa”, which reflects the balance between thoughtful reflection (seny) and spontaneous enjoyment (rauxa)				

Friday, 23 October 2026

Esade Campus Barcelona – URL (Av. Pedralbes, 60-62. 08034 Barcelona)

ENGAGE.EU 2.0: WHAT WE AGREE ON				
8.30	Welcome coffee			
9.00	ENGAGE.EU 2.0: Strategy Implementation Plan [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts]	Governing Board [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts]	International Advisory Board (tbc)	Associated Partners parallel meeting. Contents tbd by T6.2
10.00	Parallel session 1 [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts]	Parallel session 2 [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts]	GB + IAB (tbc) Debrief of previous discussions	
11.00	ENGAGE 3.0: call +2 proposal preparation [including BoL, MT, WP7 and experts] Next steps for the +2 proposal preparation.			
11.30	Coffee break			
12.00	ENGAGE.EU call to action [GB representatives] Conclusions / output of the annual conference.			
12.00	Annual conference closing and hand over [URL deputy rector, Secretary General, next annual conference host representative] Official closing of the conference and symbolic handover to the next host institution.			
13.15	Lunch to go			

Financially supported by:

