EUniverCities Network Conference

14 – 16 April 2025, Bolzano

Student and Researcher Citizenship:
tactics to shape a strategic future

Photo of the NOI Techpark, Bolzano, courtesy of Giuseppe Salghetti Drioli, shared under licence.

Welcome to our three-day exploration in Bolzano, focusing on the transformative role universities can play in the strategic development and policy-making of their territories. Central to our discussions is the concept that universities are not just educational institutions but are direct and decisive players in shaping the development strategies and policies of cities through its decision-makers, students and researchers ("democratic citizenship"). This event aims to underscore the innovative and (sometimes) disruptive impact that student and researcher participation can have on public policy and administration processes within municipalities.

During our event, we will delve into the role of key decision-makers within the city and the university, involving Mayors, Rectors, and City Councils. These leaders play vital roles in enacting regulations and plans that enhance university-city cooperation through a top-down approach. Simultaneously, we will explore innovative, bottom-up and shared methods of policy-making and administration processes by analyzing the participatory practices of students and researchers. Methods like assemblies, Living Labs, and Democratic Forum lead to co-design, co-participation, and co-administration, allowing fresh ideas and perspectives to permeate decision-making processes.

These practices empower participants and ensure that development strategies address a broad spectrum of community needs. Ultimately, cities, as reflexive communities, become epicenters of innovation and interaction, benefiting from both structured leadership and grassroots involvement.

Together, these two levels of engagement—top-down from traditional decision-makers and bottom-up from active participants—create a dynamic interplay that can significantly enhance the effectiveness and relevance of university-city cooperation.

The questions that we will investigate are these:

– Are **decision-makers** aware of the potentiality of city-university cooperation? (**top-down approach**) If yes, which strategic and enduring tools are used to enhance cooperation between city and university in the different fields?

– Do you envisage in your town and university examples of **participatory democracy** such as students' assemblies, Living Labs, debates, auditions to Municipal Councils or commissions, broadcasts or groups of students or researchers who participate (or try to participate) to the definition of the content of relevant policies for society and advance awareness on certain topics (es. Climate assemblies and protection of environment?) (**bottom-up approach**)

– Do you envisage in your town and university examples of **civic engagement and innovation** by students and researchers and professors such as expositions, movies, creative artworks which contribute to relevant policies for society accomplished through a shared path with the participation of the Municipality and the university (eg. co-created urban projects) (**co-creation, co-participation**)

The joint work between university and city can be a contribution to the resolution of cross-cutting social issues, supporting the various public, private and third sector actors and getting to the heart of society, in order to affirm that in a city, the university really does make a difference and that the democratic citizenship of students and researchers can become a fulfilled process.

PROGRAMME

Day 1 –14.04.2025

Sala di Rappresentanza Comune Bolzano Festsaal Stadt Bozen – Vicolo Gumer 7 (see google map link at the bottom of the programme)

16:00 – 16:45	**Registration and welcome**
16:45 – 17:00	**Musical welcome : Suzuki Violin Ensemble, School of Music Vivaldi**
17:00 – 17:25	**Welcome speeches** **-Professor Willem van Winden EUniverCities Network** **-Renzo Caramaschi, Mayor of Bolzano Bozen** **-Philipp Achammer, Councilor for Education and Culture, Innovation, Research, Museums, Cultural Heritage of the Province of Bolzano Bozen** **-Alex Weissensteiner, Rector of the Free University of Bozen Bolzano**
17:25 – 19:00	**-Stefania Baroncelli, Professor of Public Administration and European Law, Free University of Bozen Bolzano** > Eunivercities in Bolzano Bozen **-Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Deputy Director, former Italian Minister of Education, University and Research and Rector of the University for Foreigners of Perugia (video)** > The role of Education in Sustainable Development **-Andreas Kipar, CEO & Co-Founder LAND (video)** > Cities of the future **-Laurène Lecozanet, European University Institute, Florence** > Reflexive communities. The role of universities in today's world (research with Patrizia Nanz, President EUI)

Day 1 – Monday 14 April 2025 (continued)

19:00– 19:45   **'Bolzano's City Prize' for the best dissertation: award ceremony**

The Municipality of Bolzano in collaboration with the Free University of Bolzano have launched a scheme to award cash prizes to graduates who produce the best dissertations relating to the city of Bolzano Bozen. Two prizes will be awarded to bachelor's degree graduates, and two prizes will be awarded to master's degree graduates, with a specific recognition reserved for graduates of the master's degree course in Public Policy and Administration of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Bolzano.

The 4 winners will be officially awarded and present their research.

19:45 – 20:00   **Musical farewell (Giulia Trabacchi, Harp, Conservatory of Music)**

20:00 -   **Light Dinner at the Municipality**

Day 2 – Tuesday 15 April 2025 -

NOI Techpark/ Unibz Faculty of Engineering

Via Alessandro Volta 13/A (industrial area) (see google map link at the bottom of the programme)

9:00 – 9:30

Seminar 1 NOI

Welcome speeches and moderation: Willem van Winden

Introduction to NOI Techpark

Ulrich Stofner CEO NOI Techpark

NOI Techpark is a technological hub. Companies, research institutes and a university all work at NOI. They are all rooted in South Tyrol but have an international vision. Their strengths cover four technology fields: Green, Food & Health, Digital, and Automotive & Automation.

9:30 – 11:00

Seminar 1 NOI

Decision-makers in dialogue: Strategies for a successful City-University Partnership

Rectors/delegates and Mayors/delegates - City-University tandems in person (Bolzano, Innsbruck, Parma) and online – moderation: Willem van Winden

How is it possible to take city-university partnerships to the next level?

What are the strategic actions to strengthen the relationship between universities, communities, and cities? Cities need services for populations and smart public policies. Universities educate students and produce research that might be useful for communities. How is it possible to collaborate on a constant and intertwined basis that serve both parties and not only on occasional projects?

How is it possible to include research in the political program of municipalities?
(with simultaneous translation from Italian and German to English and vice versa)

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86510815081?pwd=0lfFKhnnjaHR0D7kdLa8Pox0FQ17mN.1
Meeting-ID: 865 1081 5081
Kenncode: 238616

Day 2 – Tuesday 15 April 2025 (continued)

11:00 – 11:15
B1.0.37 Faculty of Engineering

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30

Visits to labs and startups focused on societal issues at NOI
Innovation means answering questions and designing solutions with the potential for concrete projects. We will visit labs where former students are inventing companies that develop solutions for city-related problems.

Track1: "New technologies for industry, renewable energy and environmental protection"
Track2: "Application of human-centered technologies: buildings, food and robots"
Track3: "The challenges of digitalization and new technologies: education solutions for new generations"

12:30 – 14:00
B1.0.37 Faculty of Engineering

Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30
B1.0.14 Faculty of Engineering

University Students' Narratives about Public Participation.
Students give directions: ideal city models, transformed community spaces and civilization, where students tackle significant trends influencing the near future, recognising their perspective as key stakeholders for envisioning future urban development. Moderated by Benedetta Carlotti, Orsolya Farkas, Stefania Baroncelli, Free University of Bozen Bolzano

14:00-14.30: Presentation of the results of the questionnaire used by the Free University of Bolzano
14.30- 15.30: Students' Democratic Forum
14.30-14.50 students from Bolzano discuss the results of the questionnaire
14.50-15.20 students from Bolzano, Magdeburg, Lausanne, Parma and Innsbruck discuss these results, making reference to their own universities, focusing on different topics.

15:30 – 16:00
B1.0.37 Faculty of Engineering

Coffee break

16:00 – 16:15
B1.0.14 Faculty of Engineering

Introduction to workshops
moderation: Willem van Winden

16:15 – 17:30

Student and researcher participation in the city's policies
This panel, starting from "best practice", aims to investigate through 3 interactive workshops the extent of public participation of students and researchers in strategic planning of cities, emphasizing the establishment of a positive dialogue process between the public administration and universities.

Workshop 1
B1.2.08
Democratization and the students' topographies of the UniCity
Tobias Boos, Benedetta Carlotti, Daniela Salvucci (Free University of Bolzano)

Workshop 2
B1.2.09
Planning for social sustainability: The social plan of the city of Bolzano: a look at the contribution of the students
Biljana Veselinovic Savkovic, Milena Brentari, Silvia Recla, Carlo Alberto Librera, City of Bolzano and students of the Free University of Bolzano Bozen
The social plan of the city of Bolzano is a participative process that has also involved a group of students from the University of Bolzano. This panel will illustrate the process and the results of the students' engagement.

Workshop 3
B1.2.11
Student Housing
The case of Exeter – The involvement of the University in shaping city/ regional policy specifically around housing
Matt Dodd, Project Manager for the Devon Housing Commission, University of Exeter

17:30 – 18:00
B1.0.14 Faculty of Engineering

Summary of workshops and discussion
moderation: Willem van Winden

18:00 – 20:30

Free time

20:30
Unibz F6

Dinner in the city centre – Free University of Bolzano F6
(see google map link at the bottom of the programme)

Day 3 – Wednesday 16 April 2025

Free University of Bolzano/Bozen - City centre

Piazza Università 1-Universitätplatz (see google map link at the bottom of the programme)

8:30 – 9:30
Unibz D1.02

Coordinators' meeting (For EUniverCities Network coordinators only)

9:00 – 9:45
Unibz E1.00

Welcome coffee

9:45 – 10:15
Unibz D1.02

Market Place moderation: Willem van Winden

InnoWings International Exhibition of Inventions and Technology, Wiktoria Herun, City of Lublin

Students and the univer-city: a film based urban exploration, *Daniele Ietri and Eleonora Mastropietro*

10:15 – 12:00 Parallel Panels and Final Summary

moderation: Willem van Winden

10:15 – 11:30
Unibz D1.02

Raising students' and researchers' creativity and participation in innovation and management of cultural activities.

This panel, starting from "best practice", aims to investigate through interactive workshops the extent of the participation of students and researchers in cultural and creative projects within cities, emphasizing the innovative contribution of research where it provides benefits for citizens.

Panel 4
Unibz D0.03
Heritage in transformation: dissonant heritage, Remembering/Forgetting a monument to the White Rose
Free University of Bolzano: Roberto Gigliotti, Matilde Cassani, Davide Ferrando, students; City of Bolzano: Aaron Ceolan
The panel aims to illustrate the critical approaches to the study and resignification of fascist architectural and environmental traces in Italy, focusing on issues relevant to the city of Bozen-Bolzano with an interdisciplinary approach, realized thanks to the contribution of projects carried out by the university in collaboration with the city.

Panel 5
Unibz D1.02
The Fractal Project: 2 ways to research on culture for the benefit of citizens
Free University of Bolzano: Mita Drius, students
FRACTALgame, is a cooperative board game available in 4 languages, aimed to raise awareness among citizens on Green Infrastructures and Ecosystem Services.
The Programme has involved 4 partners from Italy (Free University of Bolzano), Austria (Burgenland Business Agency) and Slovenia (National Institute of Biology and Triglav National Park). The game was tested by the technician of the City of Bolzano.

Panel 6
Unibz E3.11
New perspectives on Music, Culture and Innovation
Haydn Foundation: Barbara Passarella, Conservatory of Music: Gustavo Adolfo Delgado, Luca Macchi, Maria Vincenza Cabizza, Maria Elena Romanazzi, Gianni Tamanini
2 PhD courses in "Artistic Research on Musical Heritage" financed by the Ministry of University and Research and the European Union through the Next Generation EU project, investigate the present of classical music and its future

Day 3 – Wednesday 16 April 2025 (continued)

11:30 – 12:00
Unibz D1.02

Summary of panels and discussion
moderation: Willem van Winden

12:00 – 14:00
Unibz E1.00

Lunch at the University

14:00 – 16:00

Cultural visits

1. The fascists monuments: the permanent exhibition into the Monument of Victory, the triumph arc and the tribunal and their contextualization (dissonant heritage)

2. BITZ Unibz Fablab, Via Rosmini - a Community Workshop for hobbyist, researchers and students in Bozen > Interactive talk: Life-long learning and education tool for sustainable textiles and fashion with Arianna Moroder, co-founder of LOTTOZERO textile laboratories. The talk will be focusing on materials, textiles, and skill building through a series of free learning modules

3. City guided tour

Programme Committee - Free University of Bolzano/Bozen
Stefania Baroncelli (coordinator)
Orsolya Farkas
Benedetta Carlotti
Giovanni Pernigotto
Daniele Ietri
Daniela Salvucci
Tobias Boos
Roberto Farneti
Monica Rosini

Organisational Unit
Sabrina Michielli (Municipality of Bolzano/Bozen)
Hannes Hell (Free University of Bolzano/Bozen)

Practical Information

Locations

Municipality of Bolzano – Festsaal (City centre) (14/04)

https://maps.app.goo.gl/HXMCZPmnLATVQaHq8

NOI Techpark (Seminar 1) (15/04)

https://maps.app.goo.gl/LSYwpkCsY8j85Yqa9

Faculty of Engineering at NOI Techpark (15/04)

https://maps.app.goo.gl/z9FzkhcnRHMn8mPf9

University of Bolzano (City centre) (15/04 at night + 16/04)

https://maps.app.goo.gl/EAg5xZ3jEWARbjtF8

The city center is entirely walkable

To get to Faculty of Engineering or Noi Techpark we suggest to take a bus from Walther Square

n. 10B (Bus Stop Bivio via Volta)

n. 111 (Bus Stop NOI)

To return to the city center from NOI Techpark

n. 10A (From Bus Stop Bivio via Volta to Bus Stop Walther Square)

n. 111 (From Bus Stop NOI to Bus Stop Walther Square)

https://www.suedtirolmobil.info/en/#/

City Transport

Bus Tickets

Most of the hotels will offer the Bolzano Bozen Card. Bolzano Bozen Card is included in the accommodation price. With Bolzano Bozen Card you have free use of public transport and free entry to the 9 museums of the town of Bolzano and to other 80 museums in South Tyrol.

Bus tickets can also be bought on the bus or on online

Cost - 1,50 €

Hotels

Star Rating *****

CASTEL HÖRTENBERG

www.castel-hoertenberg.com

Star Rating ****

LAURIN

https://www.laurin.it/en/parkhotel-bolzano/1-0.html

DESIGN HOTEL GREIF

www.greif.it

PARKHOTEL MONDSCHEIN

https://www.parkhotelmondschein.com/en/hotel

HOTEL CITTA'

https://www.hotel-citta.com/en/home-eng/

HOTEL LA BRIOSA

https://www.la-briosa.it/en/

GOLDENSTERN TOWNHOUSE

https://goldenstern.it/en/home-3/

Star Rating ***

HOTEL FIGL

https://www.figl.net/en/

HOTEL REGINA

https://www.hotelreginabz.it/en/

YOUTH HOSTEL

https://www.youth-hostel.bz/en/bolzano/youth-hostel/

KOLPINGHAUS

https://www.kolpingbozen.it/en/

How to get to Bolzano!

By train> The most convenient way to get to the center of Bolzano is by train: the station is a two-minute walk from the main square which is Walther Square, a five-minute walk from the Municipality and a ten-minute walk from the University!

Train companies:

Trenitalia

Frecciargento offers direct daily connections from Monday to Sunday from Rome, Florence, Bologna, Verona, Trento and Rovereto.

Timetables and prices: www.trenitalia.com/en.html

Italo

With Italo it is possible to get from Rome to Bolzano with some daily connections, passing through Florence, Verona, Rovereto and Trento and vice versa.

Timetables and prices: www.italotreno.it/en

DB-ÖBB Italy

With the DB-ÖBB EuroCity trains you can reach Bolzano and South Tyrol with several direct daily connections from Bologna, Venice and Verona. Fares on offer from €9.90. Family travel: children up to 14 years of age travel free of charge when accompanied by a parent or grandparent.

Timetables and prices: www.bahn.com/en/view/index.shtml#slc

By plane >

Bolzano airport, not far from the fairgrounds and only 15 minutes from the city center; connections by taxi (Radio Taxi 0471 981 111).

Flights arriving and departing from Bolzano available at www.skyalps.com

Other nearest airports are in Verona, Innsbruck, Bergamo, Milan, Venice, Bologna, Treviso, Salzburg and Munich. The connection from the airports to the railway stations is provided by several shuttles.

From Verona, Innsbruck, Bergamo, Milan, and Munich there is a daily shuttle service offered by Alto Adige Bus.

www.altoadigebus.com

By bus >

FlixBus offers connections from/to Bolzano with departure/arrival in numerous Italian and international cities. The bus stop is located in Via Buozzi, Bolzano South. To reach the city center, you can take the train from Merano (takes 5 minutes from the Bolzano Sud stop to the center) or city bus 10B (takes 20 minutes from the "Bolzano Fiera" stop on the opposite side of the Fiera to the center)

www.flixbus.it