



## **The First UNIC Superdiversity School:**

### ***Approaching Higher Education with a Superdiversity Lens***

**Koç University**

**3-5 November 2021**

The European University of the Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC) is an alliance of eight European universities: Erasmus University Rotterdam, Koç University, Ruhr University Bochum, University College Cork, University of Deusto, University of Liège, University of Oulu, and University of Zagreb. UNIC was established to promote mobility, inclusion and impact. UNIC aims to foster a new generation of students who have knowledge and the skills to generate societal impact not only within their own universities and cities but on a European level. Within the scope of the UNIC Superdiversity Academy (WP4), UNIC institutions will organise six three-day UNIC Superdiversity schools, each involving participants from various UNIC universities and will each time be held at a different UNIC university.

This first superdiversity school will focus on the main themes of UNIC vis-à-vis different university functions. While doing so, it also aims to expose participants to the outputs of the first year. The very first school will also provide an opportunity to assess the needs and interests for future trainings.

With this very first Superdiversity School, we aim to:

- Visit and discuss issues of diversity, equity, inclusion and superdiversity in higher education,
- Reflect on participants' and students' identities and experiences,
- Reconsider already existing practices with a different lens,
- Identify and implement learner-centred structures and strategies

The trainings will be in English as it is the main working language of UNIC. Please note that English may be a second/foreign language for most of UNIC members, so we - as an alliance - try to establish and promote an environment that respects this diversity.

## *Day 1, Academic Experts' Session*

**3 November 2021 Wednesday, 12:00-14:00 IST (10:00-12:00 CET)**

Please fill this [Zoom Link](#) for registration.

The target audience of this session is *all interested staff* of the universities, including the academic and administrative staff. The first day of the UNIC superdiversity School will host experts from Koç University, addressing various themes such as bias in educational settings, student life, and organizational culture in higher education settings.

### *An Inclusive Student Life*

*12:00-12:30 IST (10:00-10:30 CET)*

*Asst. Prof. Yiğit Sayın, Law School, Dean of Students at Koç University*

This talk will address the relevance and importance of (super)diversity in the student and faculty body at an institution of higher education. It will introduce the mechanisms, actors and documents that have been and expected to be influential in this process. It will present some best practices to create an environment that inspires our youth to feel supported and capable of continued learning.

### *The Art of De-biasing*

*12:40-13:10 IST (10:40-11:10 CET)*

*Assoc. Prof. Lemi Baruh, Department of Media and Visual Arts and Associate Dean of College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Koç University*

*Prof. Zeynep Cemalcılar, Department of Psychology at Koç University*

This talk will present the De-bias project which aims to contribute to a growing field of applied research on processes that can be used to reduce cognitive biases. Specifically, the project entails designing video clips for a selection of cognitive biases pertaining to teaching/learning environments, with a particular focus on teacher-learner communication. The project will also develop an adaptive learning platform to deliver targeted teaching interventions.

### *Leadership for the Next Generation*

*13:20-13:50 IST (11:20-11:50 CET)*

*Prof. Zeynep Ayca, Department of Psychology and Faculty of Management at Koç University*

This talk will present the path for facilitating the transformation from a “culture of power” to a “culture of reinforcement” from an organisational focus, with a specific view on leadership.

## ***Day 2, Learning and Teaching Session***

**4 November 2021 Thursday, 14:00-16:00 IST (12:00-14:00 CET)**

*Dr. Zuhar Zeybekođlu, Director, KU Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT)*

Please fill this [link](#) for registration.

The session is organised in cooperation with KU Office of Learning and Teaching (KOLT).

The target audience of this session is *academics* who seek to enhance their teaching skills with a focus on inclusivity. It targets approximately 5-8 faculty members from each UNIC institution. Recently recruited faculty members are especially welcome. Participants will visit main themes of UNIC, mainly superdiversity and inclusion, and consider them in relation to course design and delivery.

Participants will be presented with an overview of UNIC and its first-year experiences. Then, they will discover superdiversity and its relation to higher education via discussions on cases and relevant foundational, facilitation and curriculum design competencies in teaching and learning.

## ***Day 3, Student Life and Support Session***

**5 November 2021 Friday, 14:00-16:00 IST (12:00-14:00 CET)**

*Pınar Özbek, KU Academic and Life Skills (ALIS) Unit Instructor*

Please fill this [link](#) for registration.

This session is organised in cooperation with KU Academic and Life Skills (ALIS) Unit.

The target audience of this session is *administrative staff members*. Approximately 5-8 staff from each UNIC institution working in student life and support functions will be expected to attend. Universities are encouraged to invite additional personnel from the units that they see fit and promote their participation such as:

- Social life, community engagement
- Extracurricular trainings-programs
- Registrar, International/Erasmus Offices, Immigration Offices, Diversity-Inclusion Offices
- Housing/residential life, food services etc.
- Health related (health centre, psychological counselling)

Participants will be presented with an overview of UNIC and its first-year experiences. Then, they will get to know each other and discuss their understanding of and experience with inclusion and (super)diversity. After visiting main themes of UNIC, participants will consider main themes in relation to university life and their functions, including possible points of improvement and intersectionalities. While doing so they will discuss their personal and professional experiences and learn from different experiences. Finally, they will carry out a brief assessment activity.