

## A CIVIS & CIVICA International Conference Reflexivity in higher education: liberation or entrapment?

### CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Location:** University of Bucharest & online (<https://zoom.us/j/94099357122>)  
Rectorate Building (90 Panduri St., 050663 Bucharest, ROMANIA)  
Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4Mv1gtyAjvTKzei6>  
Amphitheatre "I. Mihailescu" (1st floor)

The **University of Bucharest**, in collaboration with the **CIVIS – Europe's Civic University Alliance**, **CIVICA – The European University of Social Sciences**, and **King's College London**, is pleased to announce the conference on **"Reflexivity in Higher Education: Liberation or Entrapment?"** to be held on **14-15 October 2024**, in **Bucharest, Romania**.

This conference is organised as part of the celebrations marking University of Bucharest's 160 years anniversary and 330 years of higher education in Romania. More information on the anniversary events can be found [here](#).

This conference will serve as a platform for scholars, academics, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and students to explore and debate the role of reflexivity in higher education. Reflexivity in the academe, the practice of self-examination and self-centred critical reflection regarding the organisation, governance, and activities of the university (including teaching and learning), is a crucial, albeit difficult to grasp, component of the higher education intellectual and policy milieu. This conference aims to investigate whether reflexivity acts as a vehicle for liberation, fostering innovation and individual and institutional advancements, or as a potential trap that complicates decision-making processes, policy implementation, or action altogether.

A significant highlight of the conference will be a special session dedicated to honouring the memory of the late **Professor Lazăr Vlăsceanu**. Educated in the UK, Lazăr Vlăsceanu was a distinguished sociologist of education, a transformative leader at the University of Bucharest, and a higher education trailblazer in Europe. His contributions to the field of higher education studies, including the topic of reflexivity, were remarkable. His work continues to inspire scholars and educators worldwide.

#### Conference Conveners

- **Liviu MATEI**, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society  
*King's College London*
- **Mihai PĂUNESCU**, Vice-Rector  
*National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest | CIVICA Alliance*
- **Romiță IUCU**, President of the Board of Trustees  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

#### Conference Format

The conference covers a range of topics, including theoretical frameworks and approaches to reflexivity in higher education, reflexivity in teaching and learning practices, the impact of reflexivity on educational policy and governance, case studies and practical applications of reflexive practices in universities, and the challenges and opportunities of reflexivity in higher education contexts. These topics will be explored through keynote speeches, presentations, roundtables, and panel discussions, fostering dynamic interactions and in-depth discussions among participants. The sessions are designed to provide a comprehensive exploration of the complexities of reflexivity in higher education.

Please note that all times in the conference agenda are listed in **Eastern European Time (EET)**. Please adjust for your local time zone accordingly.

## DAY 1 – 14 October 2024

### 13:30-14:00 *Welcome Coffee & Registration*

Chair: **Romiță IUCU**, President of the Board of Trustees  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

### 14:00-14:30 **OPENING SESSION**

**Marian PREDĂ**, Rector  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**Ligia DECA**, Minister  
*Ministry of Education in Romania*

**Sorin COSTREIE**, CIVIS Coordinator at UB  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**Mihai PĂUNESCU**, Vice-Rector  
*National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest | CIVICA Alliance*

### 14:30-15:15 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**“Demystifying reflexivity in higher education scholarship and practice. Forms of liberation and entrapment”**

**Liviu MATEI**, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society  
*King's College London*

### 15:15-16:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**“Social movement and techno-scientific project: dilemmas of the 21st-century University”**

**Sir Peter SCOTT**, Emeritus Professor of Higher Education Studies  
*University College London*

### 16:00-16:30 *Coffee Break*

Chair: **Sorin COSTREIE**, CIVIS Coordinator at UB  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

### 16:30-17:15 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**“Conceiving Reflexivity in Universities: a Resultant Social Political Force Approach”**

**François HEINDERYCKX**, Advisor to the Rector for CIVIS  
*Université libre de Bruxelles | CIVIS Alliance*

### 17:15-18:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

**“Reflexivity in higher education in the context of European Alliances”**

**Marie WITTAMER**, CIVIS Executive Director  
*Aix-Marseille Université | CIVIS Alliance*

**Mircea DUMITRU**, Vice-President, Former Rector  
*Romanian Academy | University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**Sophia, PAPAIOANNOU**, Vice-Rector  
*National and Kapodistrian University of Athens | CIVIS Alliance*

**Constantin VICĂ**, Vice-Rector  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**Mihai PĂUNESCU**, Vice-Rector  
*National University of Political Studies and Public Administration Bucharest | CIVICA Alliance*

**19:00-21:00 COCKTAIL DINNER**

*"Dimitrie Brândză" Botanical Garden  
32 Cotroceni St., 060114 Bucharest, ROMANIA  
Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8sZREVtH3UCCgN82g>*

## DAY 2 – 15 October 2024

**09:00-09:30 Welcome Coffee & Registration**

Chair: **Bogdan MURGESCU**, Vice-Rector  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**09:30-10:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**"Reflexivity: also For Higher Education Policy?"**

**Sjur BERGAN**, Independent Expert  
*Education Department, Council of Europe (retired)*

Chair: **Lucian CIOLAN**, Vice-Rector  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**10:15-11:30 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**"Rethinking reflexivity in higher education: vision and practice"**

**Ioan PÂNZARU**, Former Rector  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**Leland BARROWS**, Professor  
*Voorhees University*

**Bogdan MURGESCU**, Vice-Rector  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**Anna WILSON**, Reader  
*University of Glasgow | CIVIS Alliance*

**Adrienn NYIRCSÁK**, Independent Researcher, Yehuda Elkana Fellow  
*Central European University, Vienna*

**Liviu ANDREESCU**, Professor  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

**Viorel PROTEASA**, Lecturer  
*West University of Timișoara | UNITA Alliance*

**11:30-12:00 Coffee Break**

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Chair: **Liviu MATEI**, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society  
*King's College London*

**12:00-13:20**    **COMMEMORATIVE SESSION**

*"Lazăr Vlăsceanu: Shaping reflexive modernity in higher education"*

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**13:20-13:30**    **CONFERENCE CLOSING**

**Liviu MATEI**, Head of the School of Education, Communication & Society  
*King's College London*

**Romiță IUCU**, President of the Board of Trustees  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

Conference Secretariate:  
**Alexandru CARTIȘ**, Head of CIVIS Education Unit  
*University of Bucharest | CIVIS Alliance*

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**13:30-14:30**    **CLOSING LUNCH AT VENUE**

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