

nexus3.0

Associação para a promoção da Educação, Ciência, Arte e Cultura em contextos de Fragilidade, Conflito e Violência
Promoting Education, Science, Art and Culture in Contexts of Fragility, Conflict & Violence

U LISBOA | UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA



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International Conference

From Emergency to Ecosystem

Designing Belonging for Learners from Crisis Contexts

Friday, 20 March 2026

Venue: University of Lisbon (Reitoria – Alameda da Universidade, 1649-004)

SPEAKERS – SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

1. Welcoming Remarks and Opening Session

Session - Opening Conversations: Why this conversation now?

Purpose

To frame the transition from **emergency response to ecosystem design** and to highlight why belonging is central to scaling and improving higher education pathways.

Key messages for speakers

Speakers are invited to address three questions:

1. What has higher education achieved so far?

- expansion of scholarships
- growth of bridging programmes
- increased policy awareness

2. Why belonging matters ?

- retention and success depend on integration
- student wellbeing and participation drive completion
- institutional confidence increases when systems work

3. Why ecosystems matter for 15by30 ?

- isolated programmes cannot scale
- collaboration between higher education institutions, governments, employers and funders is essential
- long-term financing is required

Link to recommendations

Speakers may refer particularly to:

- Recommendation 3: Comprehensive support
- Recommendation 6: Communities of learning
- Recommendation 7: Cross-sector partnerships
- Recommendation 10: Ecosystem design

2. Lightning Talks

Session -Perspectives from the Ecosystem

Purpose

To present **multiple perspectives in short form** and set the stage for collaborative labs.

Core idea

Each perspective represents a **critical element of the ecosystem**:

Perspective	Role in the ecosystem
Student	lived experience of belonging
Higher Education institutions	institutional design
Mental health specialist	wellbeing support
Employer	transition to the labour market
Policy	regulatory environment
International cooperation	cross-border collaboration

Speakers prompt

Each lightning speaker answers:

1. What is **one barrier** preventing belonging?
2. What is **one change** institutions could implement quickly?
3. What partnership is **missing today**?

3. Closing Session- From Conversation to Ecosystem

In the first part, a number of speakers will be invited to share “flash reflections”, addressing one of the three following questions:

- What insight are you taking with you?
- What will you approach differently?
- What is one concrete commitment you can make?

For the wrap-up part of this Conference, there will be a powerful **powerful concluding narrative** by an inspiring speaker linking:

- the labs
- the 10 recommendations
- the 15by30 target

4. Recommendations to all Speakers

All speakers are encouraged to:

Keep remarks concise

- Opening speakers: 5–7 minutes
- Lightning talks: 6 minutes
- Flash Reflections: 2 minutes
- Concluding narrative: 12 minutes

Focus on solutions

The conference prioritises:

- ✓ practical ideas
- ✓ pilot proposals
- ✓ commitments

Rather than a theoretical debate.

Connect to the ecosystem approach

Speakers may want to highlight:

- partnerships
- system design
- sustainable pathways

Centre lived experience

- Students are co-designers, not beneficiaries.

NB- A separate note will be circulated to co-facilitators of the Labs and to Rapporteurs to the Plenary on “Pilots for Belonging: Pitch, Build, Commit “

Thank you!