

**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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## 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)

## PROGRAMME

*(Subject to change)*

### 08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival

Registration

Gallery Walk: “Belonging Across the Student Journey”

### 09:00 – 09:15 | Welcoming Remarks (*Salão Nobre*)

- **Luís Ferreira**, Rector of the University of Lisbon
- **Vera Egreja Barracho**, Board member of AIMA (Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum)
- **Ana Santos Pinto**, Chair of the Board of Nexus 3.0

### 09:15 – 09:55 | Opening Conversations (*Salão Nobre*)

## Designing Belonging: From Emergency to Ecosystem

Why this conversation now?

Introductory remarks:

- **António Vitorino**, President of the National Council for Migration and Asylum

Short keynote reflections and conversations exploring the case of higher education

- **António Sampaio da Nóvoa**, former Rector of the University of Lisbon (Portugal)
- **Helen Maher**, Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion of the Galway University (Ireland)
- **Svein Stolen**, Chairman of Global University Academy (Norway)

## **10:00 – 10:45 | Perspectives from the Ecosystem**

*(Salão Nobre)*

### **What Makes Belonging Possible — and What Makes It Hard**

Lightning talks

- **Students & alumni from a crisis context** – Aziza Akrami (Afghanistan) & Mohammed Abdeen (Syria)
- **Higher Education Institutions** – Patrícia Pinto, Algarve University, Joana Sampaio, Polytechnic Institute of Porto (tbc), Angélique Garcia, Porto Business School, Maria Fátima Pacheco, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança
- **Mental health and wellbeing specialist** – José Carlos Rocha, Clinical Psychologist, IUCS-CESPU
- **Civil society** – Gabriela Agatielo, Share HERCoN – ICMC Europe – Share Network, Belgium
- **International Cooperation** – Annick Suzor-Weiner, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie -AUF (France)

## **10:45 – 11:10 | Break & Cross-Sector Connections**

### **11:15 – 12:45 | Design Labs I**

#### **Designing Pathways to Belonging**

Participants choose one lab (parallel sessions):

##### **1) Inclusive Admissions & Recognition** *(Sala de Conferências)*

Credentials, recognition, alternative evidence, flexible entry points, and bridging mechanisms

Co-Facilitators: Cati Jerez, University of Barcelona, Spain & Cláudia Pereira, Nexus 3.0

## **2) Belonging as a Core Function** (*Sala dos Reitores*)

Language, peer connection, discrimination, participation, isolation, student voice

Co-Facilitators: Bárbara Borrego (IOM) & Alexandre Teixeira, Focus Humanitarian Assistance Portugal

## **3) Wellbeing Across the Student Journey** (*Salão Nobre*)

Beyond crisis response: long-term support, trust, cultural safety, continuity

Co-Facilitators: Olga Cunha, Nova University Lisbon & Ana Nunes, Nexus 3.0

## **4) From Learning to Employment** (*Sala de Conferências*)

Internships, employer engagement, skills recognition, transitions, bias, and access

Co-Facilitators: Sónia Pereira, Adviser to Nexus 3.0 & Carolina Monteiro, Portuguese Association for Diversity and Inclusion (APPDI)

## **5) Financing Pathways & Transitions** (*Sala dos Reitores*)

Who pays for access, continuity, and belonging — and how models can be sustained

Co-Facilitators: Andrew Flaus, University of Galway & Cecilia Brassier, University Clermont Auvergne, France

## **6) Strengthening the Path to 15by30** (*Salão Nobre*)

Scaling access through systems of belonging: enrolment, retention, institutional capacity, sustainability.

Co-Facilitators: Marianne Kanrud, Global University Academy, Norway & Melissa Marino, UNHCR, Belgium

### **Each lab identifies:**

- One practice to strengthen
- One system element to redesign
- One pilot idea with potential for testing within 12 months

## **13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch with Purpose** (*Cantina velha, Sala Nexus 3.0*)

Optional themed tables for continued discussion and cross-sector connection

## **14:15 – 15:45 | Design Labs II**

### **From Insights to Pilots**

Participants return to labs to develop a concrete proposal, including:

- Target group and context
- What makes this approach different
- Who needs to be involved
- What can be tested within 12 months
- What commitment is needed today

Output format:

- 1-page proposal **or**
- 3-minute pitch

## **15:45 – 16:30 | Plenary (*Salão Nobre*)**

### **Pilots for Belonging: Pitch, Build, Commit**

Each lab rapporteur summarises key points from the discussion and ensures that the group's ideas are clearly presented either through a pitch or one page-résumé (3-4 minutes)

## **16:30 – 17:00 | Closing Session (*Salão Nobre*)**

### **From Conversation to Ecosystem**

Ten participants will make short “**flash reflections**” addressing one of the following questions:

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

### **Closing Speeches by**

- Pedro Neto Monteiro, Chair of the Academic Federation of Lisbon (tbc)
- Ana Santos Pinto, Nexus 3.0