

Aurora Academic Matchmaking Event 2026

From first contact to collaboration

3–4 November 2026, Palacký University Olomouc

Connect

Meet academics beyond your usual network.

Explore

Discover shared interests and collaboration opportunities.

Collaborate

Turn ideas into concrete collaboration plans.

Who is it for?

Academics looking to connect with new international colleagues, explore shared interests and develop opportunities for joint teaching and research.

- The event is particularly aimed at academics who are not yet involved in Aurora, while current Aurora participants are also welcome to share their experience and good practices.

What can you expect?

- Meet new academic partners across the Aurora Alliance
- Explore opportunities for joint teaching and research
- Develop concrete collaboration ideas
- Leave with clear next steps for taking them forward

Do I need to prepare anything?

No formal presentations or posters are required! Just bring your expertise, open mind, and academic interests. We will provide structured templates and facilitation.

More information:

[Academic Matchmaking website](#)

Programme (Version 1 – August 2026)

3 November 2026 - DAY 1: "CONNECT"

The Morning Session – Inspiration without Overload

09:00–09:30 | Registration & Coffee

09:30–10:00 | Official Opening

- Opening welcome speech delivered by an Officer from the European Commission
- Aurora vision
- Why matchmaking matters
- What we hope participants will create together

10:00–10:45 | Inspirational AURORA Talks

- Sharing examples of successful interdisciplinary collaboration in a stand-up format: LOUIS/ BIP / COIL / Community Service Learning/ Microcredentials/ Community of practice
- 3–10 minutes each

10:45–11:00 | Coffee Break

11:00–12:30 | Icebreaker Activity: Clustered Speed Networking

Short rotating conversations within thematic clusters designed to help participants discover shared interests, complementary expertise and future collaboration opportunities.

- **Academic Connection Clusters:**

1. Health, Wellbeing & Life-Course Trajectories
2. Sustainability, Climate Action & Green Transitions
3. AI, Digital Transformation & Responsible Tech
4. Cultures, Identities & Global Citizenship
5. Peace Education, Institutional Resilience & Conflict Transformation
6. Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Educational Methodologies
7. Others / Emerging Topics & Cross-Cutting Initiatives

- **Detailed programme:**

11:00–11:10 | Welcome & Instructions

Introduction to the session format, thematic clusters and networking goals

11:10–11:50 | Speed Networking Rounds

Participants rotate through short conversations (4 min.) within their thematic cluster

11:50–12:30 | Cluster Reflection

Participants continue in their thematic clusters for a facilitated group discussion focused on identifying shared interests, emerging themes and possible future formats. Each cluster will appoint a facilitator/spokesperson.

Facilitators will document:

- key thematic areas emerging from the discussions
- participants interested in specific collaboration formats and initiatives
- potential working groups for Day 2 sessions

12:30 | **Group photo**

12:45–14:30 | **Networking Lunch**

The Afternoon Session – From Ideas to Opportunities

14:30–16:30 | **World Café**

- **8 Thematic Discussion Tables** (e.g. Aurora Course Design, BIP, COIL, Microcredentials, Joint Programmes, LOUIS, Community Service Learning, Making the BIP/course visible)
- Max. 10 people per table, including 2 facilitators (academic + Educational developer/Institutional coordinator)
- Participants rotate between the tables, allowing them to explore several topics
- **Detailed programme:**

14:30–14:40 | Introduction, Instructions

14:40–16:00 | Discussions

- **16:00–16:30** | Wrap-up

Each group presents: suggested collaboration format, lead contact, participating universities, next steps...

16:30–18:30 | **Free for Aurora Task Team & Work Package Meetings**

17:30 | **Guided Tour of Olomouc**
(Don't forget to sign up in the registration form😊)

4 November 2026 - DAY 2: "COLLABORATE"

The Morning Session – Turning Ideas into Collaboration Plans

09:00–09:30 | **Coffee & Mentimeter**

- Interactive visualisation of the outcomes from Day 1

09:30–10:30 | **Aurora Hubs – Opportunities for Engagement**

Each Hub briefly presents its vision, current priorities, future opportunities, and ways in which new academics can become involved.

The aim is to demonstrate that Aurora Hubs are open communities where new collaborations can emerge.

Aurora Hubs:

- Culture & Identities
- Health & Well-being
- Digital Society & Global Citizenship
- Sustainability & Climate Change
- Peace Education
- Social Entrepreneurship

10:30–10:45 | **Coffee Break**

10:45–12:30 | Collaboration Design Session

Institutional Coordinators and Educational Developers facilitate structured discussions that help participants transform their ideas into realistic collaboration plans and joint teaching formats.

Each working group will use a pre-prepared template to design a draft collaboration concept, including a collaboration format, timeline, lead contacts, follow-up meeting, expected outputs. The objective is for every group to leave the session with a clear collaboration roadmap.

The session is also intended to support **transdisciplinary cooperation**.

12:30–14:00 | Networking Lunch**The Afternoon Session – Matchmaking summary****14:00–15:00 | From Ideas to Action**

Facilitators invite selected participants to present the collaboration concepts developed during the event. Instead of traditional presentations, each group delivers a five-minute pitch answering three simple questions:

- What have we created?
- Who is involved?
- What are the next steps?

15:00–15:30 | Closing

The event concludes with a shared commitment to continue developing the collaborations initiated during the matchmaking event.

15:30–18:30 | Free for Aurora Task Team & Work Package Meetings

(Programme subject to change)