

Dear NICE Network Member,

On behalf of the NICE Network Steering Committee and the Technological University Dublin School of Management, People and Organisation's, Ireland, we would like to cordially invite you to the 35<sup>th</sup> NICE Network Annual Meeting to be hosted by

**Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)**  
**in Dublin, Ireland**  
**between 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Please find below the agenda, curated by the network's Steering Committee. All members of the network are invited to contribute to the conference as speakers, promoters of new ideas and projects, or in any other role they feel would benefit all in our network community.

**You are kindly invited to fill in the registration form by April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

Please find enclosed practical information on registration, accommodation, travelling to Dublin, the annual meeting fee, and the agenda for this year's meeting. We will be at your disposal whenever questions arise. Please contact us via e-mail ([bill.omahony@tudublin.ie](mailto:bill.omahony@tudublin.ie)) or via phone/WhatsApp (+353838663649)

We are looking forward to hosting you in Dublin!



**Dr. Roisin Donnelly**  
Head  
School of Management, People and Organisations  
Faculty of Business  
Technological University Dublin



**Mr. Bill O'Mahony**  
Operations Lead  
School of Management, People and Organisations  
Faculty of Business  
Technological University Dublin

## → REGISTRATION

To register for the 35<sup>th</sup> NICE Network Annual Meeting as a ‘participant’ or ‘accompanying persons & alumni’, please use the following link:

[35th NICE Network Annual Meeting 2026](#)

Deadline for registration is **April 17, 2026**.

## → ANNUAL MEETING FEE

The Annual Meeting fee is **€ 225** for participants and **€ 200** for accompanying persons/alumni, and must be paid by **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, via an official invoice issued by TU Dublin.

The Annual Meeting fee covers the costs of all sessions, workshops, plenaries, meeting facilities, and meals during the programme, as well as trips on Monday and Wednesday.

Accommodation, travelling & transfer costs must be covered by each participant.

## → ERASMUS +

We will be pleased to sign relevant Erasmus documents before and upon your arrival in Dublin ([bill.omahony@tudublin.ie](mailto:bill.omahony@tudublin.ie)).

## → TRAVELLING TO DUBLIN

The only airport is **Dublin Airport (DUB)**, located approximately **10 km north of Dublin city centre**. Dublin Airport is well connected to major European cities, making it easily accessible for delegates travelling from mainland Europe.

The airport is well connected by public and private transport to the city centre:

### **Airport Coach Services: Aircoach / Dublin Express**

- Direct coach services to Dublin city centre
- Depart from Zone 2 and Zone 20 at the airport
- Frequent services operate throughout the day
- Tickets can be purchased online or directly from the driver (card payments accepted)
- <https://www.aircoach.ie>
- <https://www.dublinexpress.ie>

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## Dublin Bus

- Routes 16 and 41 operate from Zone 15
- Pay on board using exact change (€2.60) or with a Leap Card
- Leap Cards and tickets are available at retail outlets and selected ticket machines
- <https://www.dublinbus.ie>

## Taxi

- Taxis are available 24/7 outside both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2
- Journey time to the city centre is approximately 20–30 minutes, depending on traffic
- Typical fares range between €30 – €50
- Taxi dispatchers are available at both terminals to assist passengers
- Ride-hailing apps such as Freenow and Uber are also available.

## → ACCOMMODATION

We recommend our pre-booked partner hotel for its strategic location near our Grangegorman campus. We will use this hotel as the meeting point.

### [The Hendrick, Smithfield](#) \*\*\*\*

We managed to negotiate a discounted rate - € 165/per night for your stay from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, if you register via this booking link: [TU Dublin Conference Rate - The Hendrick](#)

The price includes an intercontinental breakfast, Wi-Fi connection, and tax. The booking deadline is April 17, 2026.

In case you cancel your stay after the payment has been processed, the following cancellation fee applies:

*The Hendrick cancellation policy is free of charge up to seven days prior to arrival. Cancellations made within seven days of arrival are subject to the applicable charge as per the booked rate.*

Other nearby hotels:

[Maldron Hotel Smithfield](#)  
[Staycity Aparthotels, Dublin, City Centre](#)

Information on the local Smithfield and Stoneybatter areas is available at the following [link](#).

If you're staying at the Hendrick Hotel or another nearby hotel and arriving in Dublin on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, there's a local [festival](#) on this weekend which you may enjoy attending.

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→ **TRAVELLING TO TU Dublin Grangegorman Campus**

The 35th NICE Network Annual Meeting will take place in the Central Quad (see image below), located on the TU Dublin Grangegorman Campus, starting with registration and Plenary 1 in Room CQ-010. The Eircode/Area-code of TU Dublin Grangegorman Campus Central Quad is **D07 C972**



The TU Dublin Grangegorman Campus is centrally located and easily accessible from Dublin city centre, with multiple public transport options available, including the LUAS Green Line (Broadstone–TU Dublin stop) and several Dublin Bus routes serving the area. The campus is also approximately a 15–20-minute walk from the city centre. For delegates staying at The Hendrick Smithfield Hotel, the campus is just 900 metres away — approximately a 12-minute walk.

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→ **ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**OPTIONAL PROGRAMME**

**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

14:00            **Hotel check-in (The Hendrick, Smithfield / hotel of your choice)**

18:45            **Informal get-together at [O'Shea's Merchants Pub](#)**

*Meeting point (The Hendrick, Smithfield – Reception @ 18:30)*

**Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

9:00 – 13:00    **Bilateral Negotiations and Networking**

*Meeting point (The Hendrick, Smithfield - Reception)*

*or*

9:00 – 13:00    **Trip to [Glendalough](#)**

*Meeting point (The Hendrick, Smithfield - Reception)*

13:30 – 15:00    **Lunch at the [Wicklow Heather Restaurant](#)**

15:00 – 16:30    **Return to Dublin**

18:30            **Dinner in [Stone Korea](#)**

*Meeting point (The Hendrick, Smithfield - Reception)*

**START OF OFFICIAL PROGRAMME**

**Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Venue:            *TU Dublin Central Quad, Grangegorman Campus, Room CQ-010*

08:45 – 09:00    **Registration**

09:00 – 10:15    **Plenary 1: Opening Plenary**

- History of the Nice Network | Thomas Hoffmann (DE)
- Introduction of the “old” members (name, institution, function)
- Welcome speech by Dr. Deirdre Lillis, President, TU Dublin
- Speech by Prof. Maggie Cusack, President, Munster Technological University, Cork and Kerry (TBC)
- Speech by Dr. Robert Flood, Head of International Affairs, International Relationships

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- Speech by Dr. Eoin Langan, Dean, Faculty of Business
  - Speech by Dr. Roisin Donnelly, Head, School of Management, People and Organisations
  - Presentation of TU Dublin Grangegorman Campus
  - Introduction of proposed new members
  - Presentation of the agenda

Chairs & Responsible: Jitka Lidaříková (CZ)/Vladimíra Koutná (CZ) & Bill O'Mahony (IE)

10:15 – 10:45 **Tea and Coffee Break**

10:45 – 12:15 **Workshop Sessions 1**

- **Workshop 1.1: Development of Research Cooperations**  
Joanna Bednarz (PL), Susanne Wilpers (DE), Zdenko Metzker (CZ)  
Chair & Responsible: Joanna Bednarz (PL)
- **Workshop 1.2: A Systemic View on AI driven Change in Higher Education**  
Ilja van Tongeren (NL) & Dinand Warringa (NL)  
Chair & Responsible: Dinand Warringa (NL)
- **Workshop 1.3: Enhancing Cooperations between Higher Education Institutions and Companies**  
Karin Pfister (CH), Thomas Metzger (CH), N.N. (DE)  
Chair & Responsible: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)

12:15 – 13:30 **Lunch (Rathdown House Canteen)**

13:30 – 14:30 **Walk through Grangegorman Campus & Group Picture**

14:30 – 15:00 **Spotlight Sessions 1**

- **Spotlight 1.1: Developing Blended Short-Term Mobilities – handling academic and administrative questions**  
Joanna Bednarz (PL), Jenny Ettrich (DE)  
Chair & Responsible: Bill O'Mahony (IE)
- **Spotlight 1.2: Update: International Sustainability Programme**  
Andrea Meyenburg (DE), Jens Ennen (AT)  
Chair & Responsible: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)
- **Spotlight 1.3: International Project Management – Hints and Tips**  
Thomas Hoffmann (DE)  
Responsible: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)

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- 15:00 – 15:30    **Tea and Coffee Break**
- 15:30 – 16:15    **Breakout Sessions 1**
- Breakout 1.1: **Humber Polytechnic x TU-Dublin - Third Level Education Reimagined**  
Alex Gibson (IE)  
Chair & Responsible: Bill O'Mahony (IE)
  - Breakout 1.2: **HTW Dresden's first BIP experience**  
Kate Urban-Greatorex (DE)  
Chair & Responsible: Jitka Lidaříková (CZ)/Vladimíra Koutná (CZ)
  - Breakout 1.3: **Improving our work with AI**  
Annett Grossmann (DE)  
Chair & Responsible: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)
- 16:15 – 16:30    **Unveiling new Nice Network Logo & Evening Update**  
Chairs & Responsibilities: Thomas Hoffmann (DE) & Bill O'Mahony (IE)
- 18:30            **Dinner – [The Arlington Hotel Celtic Nights](#) (City Centre)**  
  
*Meeting point (The Hendrick, Smithfield – Reception @ 18:00)*  
  
Venue: The Arlington Hotel  
Dress code: Summer Vibes

## **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Venue:            *TU Dublin Central Quad, Room, Grangegorman Campus, Room CQ-010*

- 09:00 – 09:45    **Plenary 2: Discover Dublin / Discover Ireland**  
Ross Curley, Head of Economic Development, Dublin City Council (IE)  
Chair & Responsible: Bill O'Mahony (IE)
- 10:00 – 11:00    **Workshop Sessions 2**
- Workshop 2.1: **Embodiment as a Source of Learning: Understanding democratic principles through the senses**  
Karine Oganisjana (LV)  
Chair & Responsible: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)
  - Workshop 2.2: **Transnational Education: Benefits, Challenges and (attempts to find) solutions**  
Jens Ennen (AT)  
Chair: Vladimíra Koutná (CZ)

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Responsible: Regina Parzer (AT)

11:00 – 11:30    **Tea and Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:00    **Spotlight Sessions 2**

- **Spotlight 2.1: How to Run a Successful International Bootcamp and Case Competition**  
Eoghan O' Grady (IE)  
Chair & Responsible: Bill O'Mahony (IE)
- **Spotlight 2.2: Introduction of new multidisciplinary programmes – when students get to choose what, how, when and with whom to learn**  
Mari Rytisalo (FI)  
Chair: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)  
Responsible: Regina Parzer (AT)

12:15 – 13:00    **Plenary 3: Final Plenary**

- Organisational Aspects: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)
- Collection of Proposal forms: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)
- Communication Structure: Dinand Warringa (NL)
- Presentation of 2027 venue: Susanne Wilpers (DE)
- Thanks, and farewell

Chair & Responsible: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)

13:00 – 14:00    **Lunch (Rathdown House Canteen)**

15:30            [Guinness Storehouse Experience](#)

*Meeting point (The Hendrick, Smithfield – Reception @ 15:00)*

Dress code: Brewery-ready casual

## → CONTENT OF SESSIONS

### PLENARIES

#### **Plenary 1: Opening Plenary**

- History of the Nice Network | Thomas Hoffmann (DE)
- Introduction of the “old” members (name, institution, function)
- Welcome speech by Dr. Deirdre Lillis, President, TU Dublin
- Speech by Prof. Maggie Cusack, President, Munster Technological University, Cork and Kerry (TBC)
- Speech by Dr. Robert Flood, Head of International Affairs, International Relationships
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Chairs & Responsible: Jitka Lidaříková (CZ)//Vladimíra Koutná (CZ) & Bill O’Mahony (IE)

#### **Plenary 2: Discover Ireland and Dublin**

Ross Curley (IE)

Chair & Responsible: Bill O’Mahony (IE)

Plenary 2 will welcome Ross Curley, Head of Economic Development at Dublin City Council, who will deliver a session exploring Dublin’s economic landscape, strategic development priorities, and future growth opportunities. With a focus on international education, this session will highlight Dublin’s position as a globally connected city, its strong higher education ecosystem, and the role of international universities in driving innovation, talent development, and economic growth. Attendees will gain insight into how collaboration between city stakeholders and global academic partners contributes to Dublin’s continued development as a leading European capital for enterprise, research, and international engagement.

#### **Plenary 3: Final Plenary**

- Organisational Aspects: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)
- Collection of Proposal forms: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)
- Communication Structure: Dinand Warringa (NL)
- Presentation of 2027 venue: Susanne Wilpers (DE)
- Thanks and farewell

Chair & Responsible: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)

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## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Workshop 1.1: Development of Research Cooperations**

Joanna Bednarz (PL), Susanne Wilpers (DE), Zdenko Metzker (CZ)  
Chair & Responsible: Joanna Bednarz (PL)

Workshop for Researchers: We dedicate a workshop for researchers interested in developing international research cooperation, as well as for those who would like to involve researchers from their home institutions in joint activities. The aim of the workshop is to identify shared research interests and develop concrete ideas for joint research projects, collaborative studies, and co-authored publications. Prior to the meeting, registered participants will receive a short questionnaire designed to help identify potential areas of cooperation. This will allow the face-to-face session to focus on advanced conceptual work and result in concrete research proposals.

### **Workshop 1.2: A Systemic View on AI driven Change in Higher Education**

Ilja van Tongeren (NL) & Dinand Warringa (NL)  
Chair & Responsible: Dinand Warringa (NL)

This workshop deliberately moves beyond pro- or anti-AI positions.

It invites participants to reflect on their own role and professional identity as academic educators in a context where authority, expertise, and responsibility are being reconfigured because of AI-driven change.

Through a systemic approach, using constellations, the session explores what needs our attention in a grounded, professional and conscious positioning. We'll let unfold what requires acknowledgement (rather than resolution); what may need protection, what may be at risk, and what might be lost or gained?

### **Workshop 1.3: Enhancing Co-operations between Higher Education Institutions and Companies**

Karin Pfister (CH), Thomas Metzger (CH), N.N. (DE)  
Chair & Responsible: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)

Higher education institutions are increasingly expected to prepare students for complex, real-world challenges and to strengthen their societal and economic impact. One effective way to achieve this is through structured and sustainable collaboration with companies.

This interactive workshop focuses on practical ways to strengthen cooperation between universities and companies. The workshop will showcase best-practice examples from different institutional and national

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contexts and invite participants to reflect on what works, why it works, and how such initiatives can be scaled or transferred.

### **Workshop 2.1: Embodiment as a Source of Learning: Understanding democratic principles through the senses**

Karine Oganisjana (LV)

Chair & Responsible: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)

**Embodiment as a Source of Learning: Understanding Democratic Principles through the Senses** will offer an opportunity to experiment with our senses and gather evidence that our bodies can be sources and means for learning, supporting deeper understanding and experience of democracy as a process of *becoming*. This approach has been developed and explored in the Horizon Europe project **AECED** (“Transforming Education for Democracy through Aesthetic and Embodied Learning, Responsive Pedagogies and Democracy-as-Becoming”, <https://aeced.org/>).

### **Workshop 2.2: Transnational Education: Benefits, Challenges and (attempts to find) solutions**

Jens Ennen (AT)

Chair: Vladimíra Koutná (CZ)

Responsible: Regina Parzer (AT)

An increasing number of universities in Western countries are offering degree programmes abroad—through branch campuses, partnerships with local institutions, or fully online and blended formats. While students abroad often benefit most from the opportunity to earn an international degree, this trend also raises important questions for the degree-awarding higher education institutions. How many resources are required? Which legal considerations come into play? And ultimately, what stands to be gained—or lost—through such transnational engagements?

## **SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS**

### **Spotlight 1.1: Developing Blended Short-Term Mobilities – handling academic and administrative questions**

Joanna Bednarz (PL), Jenny Ettrich – online (DE)

Responsible: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)

Within the current Erasmus+ Programme generation, BIP’s experienced an upswing in European mobility development – but what about possibilities and ideas for only two partner universities in the NICE Network with an IIA?

This blended spotlight gives an insight into the development of a common module between U Gdansk and UAS Nordhausen in the field of Digital Marketing in 2024-2025. Professors from both universities integrated the possibilities of Blended Short Term Mobilities in the given curricula of their universities and

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made a project course module together for one semester: Students from both universities had the possibility to gain academic mobility experiences at the partner university and to obtain the necessary CP within their study framework; but also teaching staff from both partner sides did teaching mobilities at the partner institution.

The possibilities, but also the challenges, for creating such a study and teaching experience within the Erasmus+ funding rules will be spotlighted from both the academic and the administrative side.

### **Spotlight 1.2: Update: International Sustainability Programme**

Andrea Meyenburg (DE), Jens Ennen (AT)  
Chair & Responsible: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)

Since 2023, several partners within the Nice Network have been collaborating on a joint initiative: the **International Sustainability Programme (ISP)**. In addition to regular offers, this extracurricular initiative provides students with valuable insights into ecological, social, and economic challenges. The core concept is that students from each participating institution complete four components:

1. **Online introduction**
2. **A sustainability-focused lecture at their home university**
3. **A sustainability-focused lecture at an international partner university**
4. **A final online workshop**

We are pleased to share the progress made so far and to highlight the success stories of eight (incoming exchange) students from Krems and eight (international) students from Emden who successfully completed the programme in the autumn semester of 2025.

We warmly invite additional interested universities to join this growing initiative and contribute to shaping a more sustainable future.

### **Spotlight 1.3: International Project Management – Hints and Tips**

Thomas Hoffmann (DE)  
Chair & Responsible: Thomas Hoffmann (DE)

How to organise successfully an international meeting, e.g. Nice Network? What should be considered for the successful organisation of an international teaching or staff exchange week? How to create a good atmosphere for networking? Tips and tricks based on a long experience will be given.

### **Spotlight 2.1: How to run a successful International Bootcamp and Case Competition**

Eoghan O Grady (IE)  
Chair & Responsible: Bill O'Mahony (IE)

This 30-minute spotlight session explores how to design and scale a successful international intensive programme, using the TU Dublin International Bootcamp & Case Competition as a case example. Now in its eighth iteration, the TU Dublin International Bootcamp and Case Competition brings together students

and faculty from leading global business schools for a week-long, practice-based learning experience centred on real-world business challenges. The programme has been led by Dr. Eoghan O’Grady, Senior Lecturer and International Bootcamp and Case Competition Lead. The session will outline the programme’s development, academic and industry integration, student outcomes, and institutional impact, offering a transferable framework for colleagues seeking to develop high-impact global and experiential learning initiatives.

## **Spotlight 2.2: Introduction of new multidisciplinary programmes – when students get to choose what, how, when and with whom to learn**

Mari Rytisalo (FI)

Chair: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)

Responsible: Regina Parzer (AT)

The **Degree Programme of Network Learning and Competencies (VETO)** at Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) is a modern, multidisciplinary educational innovation designed to meet the evolving needs of the future workforce. In the presentation, the key principles of the program will be introduced with the focus on potential forms of international co-operation.

The key features of the program are:

- **Multidisciplinary:** Students can combine expertise from up to five different fields, providing a broad perspective and diverse career opportunities.
- **Learning Methods:** The focus is on continuous learning, team-based work, and self-direction.
- **Work-Life Collaboration:** The program emphasises strong, direct interaction with companies and other professional stakeholders throughout the studies.
- **Networking:** The goal is to create synergy between learning and professional life, expanding networks beyond Tampere and Finland.
- **Degree Titles:** Graduates choose one degree title after one year of studies (Bachelor of Business Administration, Information Technology, Social Services, Culture and Arts, or Hospitality Management) based on their chosen competence profile, but will become multidisciplinary skilled.

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **Breakout 1.1: Humber Polytechnic x TU-Dublin - Third Level Education Reimagined**

Alex Gibson (IE)

Chair & Responsible: Bill O'Mahony (IE)

This joint initiative between a Canadian and an Irish HE institution has a distinct focus on digital transformation with the learning environment and also utilises an applied project on the theme of Sustainability and GenAI as a mechanism to engage students and encourage collaboration in a virtual learning environment. The aim of the project is to reimagine learning, specifically understanding how best to optimise both physical and virtual learning environments and how they interconnect to create a

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highly experiential, enjoyable and impactful learning experience for third level students. The project encompasses three phases:

- A reimagination of the physical classroom by creating a 'sandbox' to experiment with different formats and approaches and using multiple technologies such as mapping tools and Virtual Reality.
- A reimagination of the virtual classroom - using a sustainability challenge (with a digital badge) completed by teams made up of Irish and Canadian students to enable students to experiment with different learning approaches and a variety of tools to co-create an enjoyable learning experience and provide feedback on how we can optimise the experience for future students.
- A reflection on how to create a strong blended experience, by combining optimised physical and virtual environments.

A series of outputs will be produced which will provide detailed guidance for third level educators into the future, thus having a widespread impact within Irish and Canadian HEIs.

### **Breakout 1.2: HTW Dresden's first BIP experience**

Kate Urban-Greatorex (DE)

Chair & Responsible: Jitka Lidaříková (CZ)/Vladimíra Koutná (CZ)

In November 2025 5 Dresden students took part in a Blended intensive Programme (BIP) at Windesheim. I would like to tell you what we did there and the benefits that students get from BIPs. I will tell you what I experienced and have feedback from my students. In general, it is a call to take part in more BIPs within our network.

### **Breakout 1.3: Approving our work with AI**

Annett Grossmann (DE)

Chair & Responsible: Andrea Meyenburg (DE)

AI tools are quietly becoming part of our daily routines – drafting emails, preparing documents and agreements, supporting student communication, structuring reports, preparing conferences and meetings. But how we use them, how confident we feel, and what our institutions allow varies enormously.

This session is designed as an open exchange among peers: What are you actually doing with AI in your work – in your International Office, in programme management, in teaching, in administration? What works, what doesn't, and where are you still hesitant? We will share concrete experiences and discuss practical questions: Which tools are useful for which tasks? How do we handle data privacy and institutional guidelines? And the bigger question – are AI tools just changing our workflows, or are they beginning to change our roles? No presentation, no right answers – just an honest conversation among colleagues who are all figuring this out together.