**Annual Transform4Europe PhD conference**

**“Societies on the Move: Challenges of Today, Prospects for the Future“**

(An international multidisciplinary conference for PhD students and early-stage academics)

**1-2 April 2025**

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

**Call for Papers**

The Transfor4Europe Alliance comprises eleven universities from different regions in Europe:

* Saarland University (Germany)
* The University of Alicante (Spain)
* The Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia)
* Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)
* University of Primorska (Slovenia)
* Jean Monnet University (France)
* The University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)
* Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria)
* The University of Trieste (Italy)
* Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)
* Mariupol State University (Ukraine, associated partner)

Under the European Universities Initiative of the European Commission the Transform4Europe partners have set themselves the ambitious aim to forge a new type of transnational inter-university collaboration, create an inter-university campus and contribute to the development of the European Education Area.

The **Annual Transform4Europe PhD conference** **“Societies on the Move: Challenges of Today, Prospects for the Future“** will be hosted by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski over two days in Sofia on 1-2 April 2025.

Outstanding keynote speakers will deliver visionary and plenary speeches. Doctoral students and early-stage academics from **all scientific areas** are kindly invited to participate, showcase the results of their research work, engage in discussions with their peers and with established researchers The participants will receive a certificate jointly issued by the Transform4Europe Alliance universities. The conference papers will be published in Conference Proceedings after scientific review.

**Conference mode:** Face-to-face

**Conference objectives:**

The conference aims to

* encourage PhD students and young researchers (including outstanding MA students) to involve in research networks with their peers from the eleven Transform4Europe Alliance partners;
* provide a forum for exchange of innovative research ideas, knowledge-sharing and co-creation;
* embed a culture of Open Science and a new approach to the scientific process based on openness, inclusiveness and cooperation.

**Thematic scope:**

The conference will focus on the current and envisaged challenges today’s societies face due to political and economic crises, war, climate change and the rapid advancement of digital technologies and AI in all spheres of life. It is thematically related to the three Transform4Europe focus areas:

* Societal transformation, community building and inclusion
* Digital transformation and smart regions
* Environmental Transformation and sustainability

**Important dates**

Submission of application forms: 21 February 2025

Confirmation of participation: 28 February 2025

Full paper submission: 30 April 2025

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

**1 April 2025**

10:00-10:30 Registration

10:30-10:35 Welcome by the Rector of Sofia University

10:35-11:20 Inaugural speech (TBC)

11:20-11:30 Discussion

\*\*\* Lunch break \*\*\*

13:00-13:30 Keynote speech on Digitalization (TBC)

13:30-15:00 Plenary Session 1

15:00-15:30 Break (coffee)

15:30-16:00 Keynote speech on Environment (TBC)

15:30-17:00 Plenary Session 2

**2 April 2025**

09:30-10:00 Keynote speech on Social transformation (TBC)

10:00-11:30 Plenary Session 3

\*\*\* Lunch break \*\*\*

13:00-13:30 Keynote speech (TBC)

13:30-15:00 Interdisciplinary Plenary Session 4

15:00-16:00 Wrap of the conference

\*Updates of the programme will be published at <http://transform4europe.eu/>