

AEA-Europe Annual Conference 2023

St. Julian's, Malta
01-04 November 2023

Call and instructions for submissions

The submission of proposals for the 2023 Association for Educational Assessment-Europe annual conference is now open. This document includes the conference theme and describes the different submission formats and how to make a submission. Submissions will be made through EasyAcademia at: <https://www.easyacademia.org/aea2023>

This link to the submission page can also be found on the AEA-Europe website <https://www.aea.europe.net> & conference website <https://2023.aea-europe.net/>.

Please read the guidelines carefully before uploading your proposal(s) to EasyAcademia.

Important dates

Main conference:	November 02-04, 2023
Pre-conference workshops:	November 01, 2023
Submission deadline for pre-conference workshops:	April 06, 2023
Submission deadline (other than workshops):	April 21, 2023
Acceptance notification:	June 30, 2023
Registration by presenters:	August 31, 2023
Online registration closes:	October 06, 2023

Please note that for submissions there will be no deadline extensions.

Theme: Assessment reform journeys: intentions, enactment and evaluation

Assessment reforms are usually instigated by the changing educational needs of society and a desire to address these needs. As such, assessment reforms are often promoted and rationalised through the use of educational discourse linked to, for instance, the creation of more equitable learning environments for students; recognition and application of teacher assessment expertise; the development of fairer assessment tools and systems; finding a balance between trust and accountability in assessment; and keeping assessment practices apace with theoretical and technological advancements. But there are times when an assessment reform is a reaction to an external factor or a *fait accompli*, as was the case with the Covid 19 pandemic in the last few years. The theme chosen for the AEA-Europe 2022 annual conference, in Dublin, was in fact *New Visions for Assessment in Uncertain Times*. And discussions focused on the way in which education planners, test developers, teachers and others responded to the different needs created by the pandemic to develop new assessment practices. These included efforts to reform assessment practices through, for instance, the adoption of digital teaching and resources, greater focus on teacher assessment, adaptive assessment, and remote proctoring in high stakes examinations. A recurring narrative in these *new visions for assessment* was the problematization of the journeys from the formulation of the intentions of assessment reforms to their eventual enactment.

The *journey* metaphor is used here to capture the notion of transitioning from a point of departure with a clear destination (i.e. the intentions of an assessment reform) to a point of arrival (i.e. the enactment of an assessment reform) that might correspond or not, to varying degrees, to the intended destination. While the intended destinations of these journeys are usually well-documented and publicised, policy makers and other key stakeholders might be less inclined to then follow and evaluate the pathways taken along the journeys and their actual points of arrival. This would be problematic because there is much to learn from careful consideration of these pathways and points of arrival vis-à-vis the planning and implementation of future assessment reforms. What is sure, however, is that cultural, contextual and personal factors play a significant role throughout, even possibly leading to unforeseen results with either empowering or debilitating consequences.

In Malta, assessment reform is a constant factor within the education system. And as in many other countries, shifts in assessment policy frequently stem directly from changes in Government. To give an example, at the time of the AEA-Europe 2009 annual conference, which was held in Malta, Malta was going through a big assessment reform that was intended to replace the selective examinations, which channelled primary school children to different types of state secondary schools, with a more equitable assessment system that recognises diversity and promotes a holistic education. However, although the eventual enactment of this reform led to the elimination of student segregation in state secondary schools, which was one of the key aims of the reform, some other concerning elements of the replaced examination system have remained (e.g. teaching to the test and reliance on private tuition). In other words, while some of the reform's intentions were enacted, others were not.

Moving forward, the annual conference of AEA-Europe is back in Malta, after 14 years, and in Malta we are going through yet another assessment reform. This time, it is another comprehensive reform that aims, among other things, to introduce school-based assessment (SBA) as part of the end-of-secondary certification system (at 16+) operated by the MATSEC Examinations Board of the University of Malta. The intended outcome of including SBA at this level is to widen high stakes assessment opportunities for students to show what they know and can do, and to give due consideration to teacher assessment for certification purposes. With the reform still in its initial stages, there may be concerns as to whether the reform will be enacted as intended. While it is too early to draw any conclusions about this reform, the scene is set for the need to evaluate the pathways that it takes, its point of arrival and the impact that this has on the education system, especially with regards to students' learning and issues related to fairness and equity.

It is clear that most of the challenges that Malta was facing in 2009 remain. For, in reality, one assessment reform seems to follow another with very little to show with regards to how its enactment measures-up to its intended purposes. The underlying need to explore *Assessment reform journeys*, which is lacking in Malta, might have relevance for other countries undergoing assessment reforms that, as we know, all occur within a social, cultural and historical context. Moreover, for countries that, like Malta, have traditionally structured their *modus operandi* in education on imported ideas from educationally influential countries, the issue of decolonizing assessment and assessment reforms is particularly relevant. Decolonization would create the right environment for assessment reforms to address the specific needs of specific contexts (e.g. promoting critical thinking, peace and democracy), which would contribute in turn to improving the sustainability of reforms. At the AEA-Europe annual conference to be held in Malta in 2023, we would therefore like to offer delegates the opportunity to reflect on the notion of *assessment reforms as journeys delineated by intentions and enactment* from different perspectives by key stakeholders, such as students, educators, schools, policy makers, employers, academics, examination boards and test developers.

Questions of Interest

Areas of issue that can be raised include:

1. What motivates and drives assessment reform?
2. What are the tensions in assessment reforms?
3. How does assessment reform impact schools, educators, test-developers, examination boards, policy makers and the general public?
4. How much are the intentions of assessment reform aligned with realities in the educational landscape?
5. What strategies are implemented to allow multiple voices (such as those of students, educators, and parents) to be heard and acted upon in assessment reform?

6. How is the success of an assessment reform evaluated (e.g. through the use of *implementation research*, pre- and post-enactment studies, and data from international comparative studies)?
7. What are the implications of assessment reform for equity and fairness?
8. How does assessment reform find a balance between trust and accountability?

The conference theme for 2023 builds on the theme for 2022, that is, the development of *New Visions for Assessment in Uncertain Times*. With the times remaining uncertain, at least for the foreseeable future, the attention this year will shift towards the development of a vision for assessment reform that puts the *journey from intentions to enactment* at the centre of developing further assessment knowledge and practices. To achieve this, we invite participants to look forwards towards the future, but also to look backwards to the historical, social and cultural contexts in which assessment reforms are shaped and changed. For, arguably, it is through this combination that the assessment community can create assessment cultures that would hopefully enable a good alignment between the intended outcomes of assessment reforms and their enactment in practice.

Subthemes

Your submission should clearly and explicitly relate to the conference theme. We encourage you to tick a subtheme in the submission system indicating your subtheme grouping preference. While we cannot guarantee grouping in a particular session/subtheme, we will take your preferences into account.

- ***Assessment of Practical Skills***
- ***Comparative Judgement***
- ***Educational Policy and Assessment in the era of decolonising curriculum***
- ***E-assessment***
- ***Fairness and Social Justice***
- ***Formative Assessment***
- ***Summative Assessment***
- ***Higher Education and Assessment***
- ***Assessment that is reactive to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. Covid 19)***
- ***Language Issues in Assessment***
- ***National Tests and Examinations***
- ***International Assessments***
- ***Psychometrics and Test Development (including Reliability, Validity)***
- ***Test Development***
- ***Assessment Cultures***
- ***Technical, Vocational and Applied Assessments***
- ***Perspectives of End-users and the General Public on Assessment***
- ***Other***

Submission Formats

The AEA-E conference comprises keynote addresses, open paper presentations, discussion groups, symposia, ignite presentations and poster presentations. We welcome submissions for all formats, except the keynote addresses, which are by invitation only.

All submissions are evaluated and this includes consideration of the applicant's preferred format. If the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) come to the conclusion that your submission would fit better in another format, you may be asked to consider the submission format change (e.g. from open paper presentation to a poster, etc.). If there is any other format that you are willing to accept, you can state it in your application. This can speed up the acceptance process.

This call also covers proposals to lead a pre-conference workshop. Normally several workshops are held on the day before the conference - so submissions for these workshops are also welcome. Please note that the deadline for submission of workshops is earlier.

You might propose one or more of the following:

- Pre-conference workshop: Closing date 06th April (note that the submission date for workshops is earlier than for other proposals).
- Ignite presentation: Closing date for submissions 21st April
- Paper presentation: Closing date for submissions 21st April.
- Discussion group: Closing date for submissions 21st April.
- Poster presentation: Closing date for submissions 21st April.
- Symposium: Closing date for submissions 21st April.

For each submission, please follow the instructions below. Please note that, although you may submit several proposals:

- (i) your name can only appear a maximum of **five times** across the conference programme
- (ii) your name can only appear **once as lead person** for any given format – for example, you can only be lead author for one paper presentation.

Pre-conference workshops (submission deadline 6th April 2023)

On the day preceding the conference a number of optional pre-conference workshops are run for conference attendees. A participation fee is payable.

The proposal should consist of a short abstract (maximum 200 words) and completion of Appendix A which is provided in the online submission system. The proposal should consist of a short presentation of the aim of the workshop, a description of required previous knowledge, and the target audience. The proposal should also indicate a good balance of professional input from the workshop leaders and time for input and discussion by the participants.

The proposal should be written in Times Roman 12, 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings and underline the name of the main organiser(s).

Pre-conference proposals are reviewed by the Scientific Programme Committee.

A maximum of two organisers/presenters for each workshop can be reimbursed for one night of accommodation and, in addition, receive a gift certificate of 50 Euro.

Ignite Presentation (submission deadline 21st April 2023)

Ignite presentations have received very positive reviews in recent years, so this year we are seeking proposals for Ignite presentations again. An ignite presentation – also known as ‘pecha kucha’ - is a high energy way to present content in a quick and concise format. Twenty slides automatically advance at 15-second intervals for a total presentation time of five minutes in length. You will also be allotted an additional 5 minutes for Q&A following your presentation. Ignite presentations should include innovative ideas or approaches in the field of educational assessment and relating to the conference theme.

To propose an ignite presentation, please describe what you wish to share with the audience and do this in 150 words (maximum). If you choose this option, you will be asked to upload a separate proposal for an individual oral presentation in the Ignite format.

For more inspiration about this format, you might want to visit the following websites:

<https://www.pechakucha.org>

<http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/ignite-presentations>

In order to make such an ignite session successful, AEA-Europe will provide some coaching and rehearsal/testing opportunity before and during the actual session (e.g. number of words per sheet etc.) as well as provide you with technical instructions as to how you need to set up your presentation for automatic, timed advance.

The 150 word proposal should be written in Times Roman 12, 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings and underline the name of the main organiser(s).

Open paper presentation (submission deadline 21st April 2023)

There are a number of parallel paper sessions on each conference day. These sessions comprise three individual papers and are allocated to 90 minute themed slots. Speakers are asked to present for 20 minutes and allow 10 minutes for questions/discussion, making each paper presentation a maximum of 30 minutes. Please consider this when writing your proposal. Papers describing empirical studies as well as conceptual/theoretical accounts are welcomed. For unfinished research or research in the early stages, please consider the poster format.

The proposal should consist of a short abstract (maximum 200 words) and a long abstract (maximum 800 words). The short abstract should be written without references, while at least one reference should be given for the long abstract. The long abstract provides reviewers with more detailed information on which to base their evaluations.

The proposal should be written in Times Roman 12 with 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings. You will be asked to provide the name of the main presenter and co-presenters with affiliation.

It is possible to submit several proposals; **however, you can only be the main presenter for ONE open paper during the conference.** You may be co-presenter of other open papers.

Tips for creating effective presentations at conference

- Ideally, your presentation should have no more than 10-12 slides for a 20-minute presentation
- Try to keep your presentation to 20 minutes in order for your audience to engage with you through questions and answers
- Provide some information on the background/context of the presentation (it is more than possible that your audience is unfamiliar with this information)
- Keep the amount of text under 6-8 lines per slide (or 30 words) at a minimum of size 24 pt
- Try not to overcrowd your slides
- Avoid long sentences
- Make clear to your audience what any abbreviations and acronyms mean
- Remain aligned with the theme of your presentation
- Engage with your audience proactively
- Use dark text on light background or light text on dark background. However, dark backgrounds sometimes make it difficult for some people to read the text.
- To test the font, stand six feet from the monitor and see if you can read the slide.
- Time your presentation.
- Try to avoid reading your presentation
- If the content is complex, print the slides so the audience can take notes.

Discussion groups (submission deadline 21st April 2023)

Discussion groups can offer opportunities to continue discussions begun at a previous conference on particular topics, or new topics can be introduced. Each discussion group will occupy a 60 minutes slot and discussion groups will run in parallel with each other. The proposal should consist of a short abstract (maximum 200 words) and a long abstract (maximum 800 words). The short abstract should be written without references, while at least one reference should be given for the long abstract. The long abstract should also include details relating to the focus of the discussion, the format of the discussion (e.g. 'crossing the line'; 'goldfish bowl'; panel discussion), and the questions to reflect on for the discussion.

The proposal should be written in Times Roman 12 with 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings. Discussion group proposals will be reviewed by three reviewers in a blind review process (please see details of the review process below). In total 60 minutes are allocated for each accepted discussion group. Please note that presentations should be kept short to allow most of the time to be spent on discussions. Please consider this when writing your proposal. Discussion groups will run in parallel with each other.

Symposia (submission deadline 21st April 2023)

Proposals for Symposia for the 2023 AEA-Europe conference are welcomed. Each Symposium will normally consist of three linked individual papers and will occupy a 60 minutes slot (3 papers with 10 minutes each, a discussant for 10 minutes and 20 minutes discussion with the audience). Symposia (except for the Keynote Symposium, see below) will most likely run in parallel with each other.

Please note that the symposium proposal should identify a discussant in the submission. Thus symposia submissions should include:

- Symposium title, convenor and discussant with their affiliations
- Title, author(s) and their affiliation(s) of each of the papers in the symposium (maximum of 3 papers)
- 800 word overview of the symposium
- 200 word abstract for each of the proposed papers.

The proposal should be written in Times Roman 12 with 1.5 line spacing. Use bold for headings. Symposium proposals will be reviewed by three reviewers in a blind review process (please see details of the review process below).

Poster proposals (submission deadline 21st April 2023)

The proposal for a poster should consist of a 200 word abstract.

It is possible to submit more than one proposal; **however, you will only be able to be the main presenter for ONE poster during the conference.** You are allowed to be a co-presenter of other posters.

Accepted posters will be presented during a plenary session. The maximum number of posters that can be presented is 25. If there are more posters that meet the minimum acceptance criteria, posters that scored more evaluation points will be given preference in the acceptance process until maximum capacity is reached.

When your proposal is accepted, the poster should be submitted as a pdf. There should be one page and one page only. This digital version will be presented electronically on a large screen during the plenary session. Presenters are allowed a 90 seconds time slot, which is the maximum time each presenter is allowed to pitch in front of the conference attendees. The session chair will keep track of time to ensure that each presenter finishes within the allotted time.

In addition to the digital pdf, presenters are required to prepare a physical poster with size A0 Portrait to display during the conference. This physical version of the poster can be mounted on boards at a central location at the venue for a certain time period.

Once the plenary session is finished, the voting procedure will be opened and conference attendees can view the physical posters and have a discussion with the poster presenters. Attendees can vote through the conference app, which allows each attendee a single voting opportunity. Each attendee can nominate up to three posters for the award. The conference app can also be used by attendees to chat/exchange messages with you or schedule time with

you to get more information on your topic/research, as long as voting is still possible.

There is a poster award of € 500, sponsored by Cito. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) will receive the results from the conference app after voting is closed. The poster with the highest number of nominations will be announced as the poster award winner by the PDC during the closing session of the conference.

Further information about the poster award can be found on the AEA-Europe website.

Review process

The review process will be managed by the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC).

Stuart Shaw, SPC Chair, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, UK

Elisa de Padua, University of Cambridge, UK

Nico Dieteren, CITO, the Netherlands

Rebecca Hamer, International Baccalaureate, the Netherlands

Gerry Shiel, Educational Research Centre, Ireland

Damian Murchan, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Michael Buhagiar and Dario Pirotta (University of Malta) will join the SPC this year as representatives of the conference hosts.

Please note that we will not proof-read the submissions so authors need to ensure that all submissions have been proof-read and are error free.

All ignite presentations, open papers, connected papers sessions, and poster proposals will be considered through a blind peer review process. Each proposal is reviewed by **THREE** independent reviewers. Proposals will be judged on the scientific quality of the proposal and how it relates to the conference theme (strongly, weakly or not at all). Proposals that are accepted by at least two reviewers will be accepted by the Scientific Programme Committee.

In previous years, the Fellows of AEA-Europe, members of the Conference Organizing and Scientific committees, the Local Organizing Committee, Council members and members of AEA-Europe committees have acted as reviewers. In recent years, however, the number of proposals has increased substantially, and AEA-Europe members that have participated and presented in a large number of previous conferences may be approached and asked to act as reviewers, in order to secure a sound review process.

EasyAcademia System

To access EasyAcademia, please use the link provided on the conference website or the one below:

<https://www.easyacademia.org/aea2023>

The submission process has two parts:

1. Log in to EasyAcademia using an existing account or set up a new account and log in.

Note that if you previously submitted for an AEA conference you may use the same account details.

If you have not used EasyAcademia previously, you will need to set up an account. Please follow the instructions in Appendix B.

2. Submit your abstract(s)

Before you submit your abstract(s), please make certain you have the necessary information for co-authors: full name, affiliation, country of residence and email. You will need to provide a list of keywords for your submission. The keywords will be used in the programme.

You will be asked to indicate the submission category of your proposal (pre-conference workshop, ignite presentation, open paper, discussion group, symposium or poster).

You will, in addition, be asked to indicate a topic category: e.g. assessment of practical skills, comparative judgement, educational policy and assessment, e-assessment, fairness and social justice, formative assessment, higher education and assessment, national tests and examinations, international assessments, psychometrics and test development (including reliability, validity), test development, assessment cultures, Perspectives of End-users and the General Public on Assessment etc.

We will use the topic category and the short abstract to allocate reviewers to your proposal. If more than one category fits your proposal, please select the most appropriate. If none fits, please select 'Other'. The few categories provided represent topic categories that typically receive a large enough number of submissions to be reviewed by a team of reviewers. Proposals submitted as 'Other' will be reviewed following the same standards and guidelines as all other proposals.

Please use the instructions below to help you submit your abstract(s). The procedure is quite simple and we do not anticipate many problems, but if you do need help, please contact us at support@easyconferences.org

If you want to submit more than one proposal, you will need to submit each individually.

Please note that EasyAcademia does not run effectively if you use Internet Explorer. We recommend using another browser, for instance Chrome, Opera or Firefox.

Step 1 : Submission Format

Select Format

Please choose one of the following submission formats as your preferred format. If your submission is accepted, the final decision on the format will be made by the chair.

Pre-conference workshop [what is this?]


Ignite Presentation [what is this?]

Open Paper Presentation [what is this?]

Discussion group [what is this?]

Poster proposal [what is this?]

Symposium: Overview [what is this?]

 Symposium: Oral presentation

code



continue >

Select the format corresponding to your submission.

In case you are submitting a symposium please select “Symposium: Overview” format and save your submission. Once saved, the symposium will be assigned with a submission code. Next, start a new submission for each individual abstract, and use the code to unlock “Symposium: Oral presentation” format, which will link your individual abstract to the main symposium.

Step 2: Submission Title

Please provide the title for your proposal.

Submission Title

Please provide the title of your submission.

0 words

continue >

Step 3: Short Abstract

Please provide a short abstract for your proposal.

Abstract

Please enter the abstract for your submission in the box below. Plain text should be given only, no html code is allowed.

0 / 200 words

[continue >](#)

Step 4: Keywords

Please provide a minimum of 3 keywords.

Keywords

Please enter the keywords separated by a comma.

keyword1, keyword2, keyword3

[continue >](#)

Step 5: Authors

Please input details for each author and mark them with appropriate roles. Corresponding authors will receive updates and information regarding the submission. Authors not marked as presenter, convenor or corresponding, will only receive an initial notification of submission.

List Authors

Please list people involved in this submission below. There must be at least one presenting and one corresponding person listed. Please note that the same person can be listed as both corresponding and presenting.

[+ add new author](#)

[continue >](#)

Step 6: Topics

Please select the most appropriate topic for your proposal. We will use the topics and the short abstract to allocate reviewers to your proposal. If more than one topic fits your proposal, please select the most appropriate one. If none fits, please select 'Other'.

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- Assessment of Practical Skills
 - Comparative Judgement
 - Educational Policy and Assessment in the era of decolonising curriculum
 - E-assessment
 - Fairness and Social Justice
 - Formative Assessment
 - Summative Assessment
 - Higher Education and Assessment
 - Assessment that is reactive to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. Covid 19)
 - Language Issues in Assessment
 - National Tests and Examinations
 - International Assessments
 - Psychometrics and Test Development (including Reliability, Validity)
 - Test Development
 - Assessment Cultures
 - Technical, Vocational and Applied Assessments
 - Perspectives of End-users and the General Public on Assessment
 - Other
-

[continue >](#)

Step 7: Long Abstract Upload

Please upload your long abstract in PDF or Word format.

Upload Document

Please upload the document by clicking on the upload button below and select the file from your computer. Make sure that your file is prepared by the conference standards before you upload.

no file uploaded yet upload abstract

The following file format(s) can be uploaded:  

continue >

Step 8: Attachment

If you are submitting a Workshop, the Attachment step will appear. The link to the application form is

https://2023.aea-europe.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/APPENDIX-A_workshop-application-1.docx

Complete the form (Sample in Appendix A) and upload it as part of your submission.

Step 9: Submit

If you are happy with the summary information, please click on Submit Now to finalize the process, and a notification e-mail will be sent to all authors.

Summary

A summary of your submission can be seen below. If all information is correct, please finalize the submission by selecting *submit now*.

Format	Ignite Presentation
Submission Title	Sample title
Abstract	Your abstract
Keywords	<i>keywords not set</i>
Authors	<i>not set</i>
Topics	<i>no topics selected</i>
Document	<i>no file uploaded</i>
Attachment	<i>no attachment uploaded</i>

[submit now](#)

APPENDIX A: Template pre-conference workshop

WORKSHOP TITLE:

Presenters:

Presenters' Bios (500 words max per presenter):

Why AEA members should attend this workshop:

Who this Workshop is for:

Overview of workshop (600 words):

Preparation for the workshop:

Tentative Schedule

Time	Session	Presenter
9.30-12.00	Block I	
12.00-13.00	Break	
13.00-14.30	Block II	
14.30-14.45	Break	
14.45-16.00	Block III	

APPENDIX B: Set up an Account

First, you will need to set up an account. Go to www.easyacademia.org and click on the “Get Started” button.



This link will bring up a signup page:

A screenshot of the EasyAcademia sign-up page. The page has a light gray background with the 'easY' logo in the top left and a close button (X) in the top right. The title 'SIGN UP' is centered in blue. Below the title is the instruction 'Please provide the details below to get started'. The form consists of several input fields: a 'Prof.' dropdown menu, 'first name' and 'last name' text boxes, 'email address' and 'password' text boxes, and 'university / organization' and 'Serbia' dropdown menus. A blue 'Create Account' button is centered below the form. At the bottom, there is a blue arrow pointing left and the text 'Back to login'.

Follow the on-screen instructions and complete the form and click on “Create Account”.

Now, you will receive an email with the activation code. Use the link provided in the email to verify your account.

note: Please check your Spam folder if you have not received the email within a few minutes.

note: If your email appears taken, it is possible that you have signed up for EasyAcademia in the past for another conference. In this case, you simply need to ask the system to remind you of your password based on your email.