

STUDY GUIDE

BUILDING INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT PATHS

Organised by
University of Catania (UNICT)

1. IDENTIFYING DATA.		
• Course Name.	Building Inclusion and Empowerment paths	
• Coordinating University.	University of Catania (UNICT)	
• Partner Universities Involved.	UNIVERSITY OF THE PELOPONNESE, UNIVERSITY OF CANTABRIA, UNIVERSITY OF POZNAN	
• Course Field(s).	Language and communication; Inclusion in the EU conventions and norms; mobility; strategies of co-creation; strategies of empowerment.	
• Related Study Programme.	Staff and profesor training	
• ISCED Code.		
• SDG.	SDG 4 - Quality Education; SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities; SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals	
• Study Level.	The BIP is addressed to staff, professors and researchers.	
• EUNICE Key Competencies	Competency strength is indicated by colour: green = strongly, orange = moderately, red = partially, blank = not at all.	
	Problem solving	
	Teamworking	
	Communication	
	Self-management	
	Cognitive flexibility	
	Digital competence	
	Technical competence	
	Global intercultural competence	

• Number of ECTS credits allocated.	
• Mode of Delivery.	Blended: online self-study, online live sessions, and onsite activities in Ragusa
• Language of Instruction.	English
• Course Dates.	22 October 2026 (online component); 30 November-4 December 2026 (onsite component in Ragusa)
• Precise Schedule of the Lectures.	Online component: 22 October 2026. Each synchronous session lasts 90 minutes and is preceded by approximately one hour of asynchronous preparation (readings, videos and short essays). Onsite component: 30 November-4 December 2026 at UNICT, Department of Humanities (DISUM), SDS Ragusa.
• Key Words.	Inclusion; diversity; empowerment; co-creation; stakeholder engagement; accessibility; intercultural competence; communication; norms and conventions
• Catchy Phrase.	Co-create more inclusive universities by turning diverse perspectives into accessible, responsive and empowering services.

• Prerequisites and co-requisites.	Participants should be able to work in English and have an interest or professional role in internationalisation, student services, inclusion, accessibility or university administration.
• Number of EUNICE students that can attend the Course.	15 participants + a waiting list
• Number of EUNICE students that can attend the course per institution	Up to 2 participants (+waiting list)
• Course inscription procedure(s).	Email to sabina.fontana@unict.it and enrica.cappadonna@unict.it , including the email addresses of the nominated participants.

2. CONTACT DETAILS.

• Department.	Department of Humanities (DISUM), local branch SDS Ragusa - University of Catania
• Name of Lecturer.	Prof. Sabina Fontana
• E-mail.	Sabina.fontana@unict.it
• Other Lecturers.	Experts in pedagogy, migration, psychology, disability and accessibility, together with lecturers from the EUNICE network

3. COURSE CONTENT.

Building Inclusion and Empowerment paths is a Blended Intensive Programme designed primarily for university staff, with particular attention to international offices. It focuses on how stakeholder participation can improve the design and delivery of university services by moving from a traditional top-down model towards participatory, bottom-up and co-creative approaches. Participants will examine how students, academic and administrative staff, and external partners can contribute valuable knowledge to decision-making and service design. Particular attention will be given to the needs of international and incoming students, who may face additional barriers in accessing university systems. Through lectures, expert contributions, interactive workshops and collaborative

activities, the programme will explore inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, intercultural competence, empowerment and the internationalisation of higher education. Participants will be encouraged to reflect critically on their own institutional practices and to develop more responsive, flexible, accessible and user-centred services.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES.

By the end of the BIP, participants will be able to:

- Recognise the value of stakeholder involvement and participatory approaches in the design and delivery of university services.
- Develop more inclusive, innovative and user-centred practices within their daily professional activities.
- Co-create solutions with students and other local and international stakeholders so that services are more responsive, accessible and aligned with users' needs.
- Apply principles of diversity, equity and inclusion, with particular attention to international and incoming students.
- Strengthen intercultural competence and a mindset of continuous improvement and internationalisation in higher education.
- Exchange practices across institutional and cultural contexts and critically reconsider how international offices and related university services can operate.

5. OBJECTIVES.

The main objectives of the programme are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of stakeholder participation in university decision-making and service design.
- Promote a shift from top-down service delivery towards bottom-up, participatory and co-creative approaches.
- Support the design of inclusive, accessible and flexible university services that respond to users' actual needs.
- Promote diversity, equity, empowerment and a stronger sense of belonging within academic communities.
- Strengthen intercultural competence and collaboration across EUNICE institutions.
- Encourage sustainable improvement and internationalisation of university services, especially those supporting international and incoming students.

6. COURSE ORGANISATION.

UNITS

1.	From top-down to participatory university services: stakeholder engagement, empowerment and co-creation
2.	Inclusion, diversity and accessibility in higher education: perspectives from pedagogy, migration, psychology and disability
3.	International and incoming students: barriers, intercultural competence and inclusive service design
4.	Co-creating change: rethinking international-office practices and developing responsive, user-centred solutions

LEARNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS.

Selected readings, videos and short essays; optional additional resources; lecturer-provided materials; collaborative workshop and co-creation materials; online learning and videoconferencing environment

PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING METHODS.

Lectures; asynchronous preparation; 90-minute synchronous online sessions; expert talks; interactive workshops; guided discussions; collaborative/group activities; peer exchange; reflective activities; co-creation exercises

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS, CRITERIA AND PERIOD.

Non-graded assessment based on completion of preparatory activities, active participation in workshops and collaborative work, and a final group co-creation output or presentation.

OBSERVATIONS.

The BIP is primarily addressed to international office staff. Physical mobility is planned for five days, with onsite activities in Ragusa from 30 November to 4 December 2026.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS.

Participants will receive selected readings, videos, short essays and optional additional resources before the synchronous sessions. The final list of required and recommended materials, preferably open access or available across EUNICE partner universities, is to be confirmed by the teaching team.