



Dear colleagues,

With this email, we would like to invite you to the upcoming public lecture organized by the Institute for Higher Education Management.

Title: **Academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Europe: diverging paths?**

Date: Wednesday, **November 22, 2023** at 4pm CET

Speaker: **Prof. Dr. Liviu Matei**, Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy, Head of the King's School of Education, Communication & Society (ECS)

Location: WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Higher Education Management, **Building D5, 2nd Floor, Room D5.2.019** (<http://campus.wu.ac.at/>)

The event location has barrier free access.

For those who cannot attend in person, can join us online via [MS Teams](#) livestream.

Please express your interest by registering at [verena.herbsthofner@wu.ac.at](mailto:verena.herbsthofner@wu.ac.at)

Looking forward to welcoming you,  
Barbara Sporn

**Abstract:**

There is much concern about academic freedom in Europe currently, which is a new phenomenon. Just a few years ago, there was almost no talk about academic freedom and, instead, a lot about institutional autonomy. A consequential “European model of university autonomy” emerged formally around 2010, which was exported to other parts of the world as well. Until 2020, there was no shared, up to date and effective conceptual reference for academic freedom in Europe (no European model) and this contributed to a crisis of academic freedom on the continent. Moreover, it has been stated that during this time period advances in institutional autonomy have taken place at the expense of academic freedom.

This lecture will discuss the (apparently) divergent evolutions in the conceptualization, codification and practice of academic freedom and university autonomy in Europe in the last few decades, factors that have influenced these evolutions as well as their impact on higher education institutions and their constituencies (students, academic and administrative staff, and university leadership).

**About the speaker**

*Liviu Matei is a higher education scholar, educator and policy entrepreneur. He holds a professorship in higher education and public policy, and is Head of the School of Education, Communication and Society at King's College London. He taught at universities in Europe and the U.S, consulted extensively in higher education and conducted applied policy research projects for the Council of Europe, the European Commission, World Bank, UNESCO, OSCE, other international*

*intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; for national authorities and universities from Europe and Asia. He founded and directed the Yehuda Elkana Center for Higher Education, the Global Observatory on Academic Freedom, and the Global Teaching Fellowships Program, He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Central Asia and serves on the editorial boards of the Internationalisation of Higher Education: Policy and Practice, and the European Journal of Higher Education. His primary areas of expertise include university governance, funding, internationalization of higher education, academic freedom and university autonomy, quality assurance, and history and politics of higher education.*