

# The European Universities initiative and Centres of Vocational Excellence



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John Edwards is Secretary General of EURASHE, the European association representing institutions that deliver professional higher education and conduct applied research. In this role he acts as an interface between European policy makers and EURASHE members in the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, research, enterprise, and regional policy.

John previously worked for the European Commission's Joint Research Centre between 2011 and 2020, managing projects on the role of higher education and vocational excellence in Smart Specialisation. He is currently coordinating an Erasmus+ project on mapping the regional impact of Universities of Applied Science. John holds degrees from the University of St Andrews, the College of Europe in Bruges, and Newcastle University, where he completed his PhD in economic geography. He is a dual Portuguese/UK national.

## John Edwards

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# 2022 FORUM ON VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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DR. JON ALTUNA IRAOLA, Academic Vice-Rector at Mondragon University, received his industrial electronics engineering degree at Mondragon University (Spain) and Ph.D degree in signal processing and electronics engineering from the University of Edinburgh (UK) in 1997. His research interests include statistical signal processing channel estimation and its hardware implementation in wireless communications.

He is President of the Lea Artibai Vocational Training School, evaluator of QA systems with AQU Catalunya and member of the Social Management Committee of Mondragon Co-operative Group. He coordinates the “EU4DUAL – European Dual Studies University” European University Alliance.

**Dr. Jon Altuna**

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Slavka Tzanova is professor in Microelectronics and head of laboratory of Technology Enhanced Learning at the Technical University of Sofia. She has MSc degree in Automation and Telemechanics and PhD and DSc in Microelectronics from TU-Sofia and MSc in Educational and Training Systems design from the University of Twente, the Netherlands.

Apart of her scientific interests in micro- and nanoelectronics, she works on projects for innovative educational methods in engineering, medicine, sciences. She co-ordinated 11 projects from the Erasmus+ programme for development and implementation of collaborative learning resources in microelectronics in European universities but also in Israeli, Kazakh, Armenian, Chinese, Indian, Malaysian and Mongolian universities. Now she is coordinating the European Centre of Vocational Excellence in Microelectronics ([ecovem.eu](http://ecovem.eu)).

## Slavka Tzanova

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