

# 2020 AEA-Europe Annual Conference, Dublin - Ireland

## Call and instructions for submissions

The submission of proposals for the 2020 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/aea2020>

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

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

## Important dates

Main conference:	November 5-7, 2020
Pre-conference workshops:	November 4, 2020
Submission deadline for pre-conference workshops:	April 3, 2020
Submission deadline (other than workshops):	April 17, 2020
Acceptance notification:	June 30, 2020
Registration by presenters:	August 31, 2020
Online registration closes:	October 18, 2020

## Theme:

### ***Assessment for Changing Times: Opportunities and Challenges.***

The cycles of educational and assessment change and reform across many systems get shorter and shorter, as policymakers respond to emerging needs. Such needs are typically driven by societal and economic factors, informed by ever-increasing volumes of research, evaluation of practice and public comment. This process reflects experience across most areas in society, including education and educational assessment. Such rapid change brings opportunities. For example, it allows for research and development of new methods and approaches to measure skills and competencies, development of enhanced forms of digital assessment, creation of virtual items and introduction of adaptive assessment into large-scale testing programmes. These are exciting developments that occupy the professional lives of many individuals, groups and agencies globally.

However, such developments bring challenges also. Change in assessment policy and practice command the attention of stakeholders in education – policymakers, teachers, students, parents and the research community. Such attention by stakeholders can evolve into anxiety, debate, struggle for control of assessment systems and conflict. Examples include concerns about measuring problem-solving as part of the Programme in International Student Assessment, struggles between teachers' unions and Government in Ireland about school-based assessment, and the opt-out-of-testing movement by parents in Scotland and the US.

## Questions of Interest

The AEA-Europe conference in Dublin offers delegates the chance to explore change in assessment and how it is received by stakeholders. Questions of interest include:

- ***What are we changing in assessment?***
- ***Why is change needed?***
- ***How do we introduce new ideas, practices and methods?***
- ***What are the benefits of such reform and where is the evidence that change works?***
- ***What are the obstacles to changes in assessment and to systemic reform or practice?***

This theme unifies and extends the themes explored in some previous AEA-Europe conferences, particularly those in Lisbon (2019) and Arnhem/Nijmegen (2018). The 2018 theme encouraged delegates to discuss the development of optimally fitting tests and assessments designed to meet the needs of learners, teachers and policymakers in the future. Such assessments, many of which draw on advances in digital technology, require solid evidence of fit with relevant curriculum content and skills and need to display psychometrics properties appropriate to their use. Delegates in Lisbon (2019) were invited to consider how assessments can be used to transform teaching and learning and thus improve educational outcomes for students. Focusing on assessment as a pedagogical tool, that theme emphasised, in part, how formative and summative assessments can be embedded in classroom practice and how feedback processes can be used not only to inform students but to highlight valuable insights for teachers and other stakeholders in education.

The theme for Dublin 2020 encompasses the essence of the two previous themes, inviting contributors to continue exploring the development of high-quality assessments (for example, assessment of skills and competencies, use of digital assessment, log-file analysis, adaptive testing) and how to implement them most effectively to measure and support learning and to inform system review and development. In addition, the theme especially invites consideration of the consequences

of the development and implementation of change in assessment. Knowing how and why stakeholders respond to the well-intentioned efforts of the assessment and policy community can help inform more appropriate approaches to implementation. We need to understand to what extent assessment changes are understood and interpreted by test users and those they work with. Understanding why key stakeholders sometimes oppose change helps us design and implement systems that recognise the concerns and frame solutions at the outset. The intended and unintended effects of assessment use are important to know. This links to fundamental expectations on developers and users of assessment alike that validity evidence about the consequences of interpretation and uses of results is understood and recognised. In this, there are consequences both for test users (teachers, students, parents, policymakers) who may hold differing perspectives and for assessment professionals.

## **Areas of Interest**

The conference committee therefore invites proposals covering a range of possible related areas of interest, including:

- *new developments in assessment (including e-assessment)*
- *assessment as solution-oriented whereby implementation of appropriate assessments seeks to address problems at classroom, school and system levels*
- *what are the “wicked” or highly challenging problems in assessment (measuring transferable skills, measuring transferable skills, using an assessments for multiple purpose, ensuring positive impact)?*
- *what are the challenges in introducing assessment reform? Technical, financial, political?*
- *how do stakeholders, especially those charged with implementation, understand assessment?*
- *what are the responses from stakeholders, especially teachers, students and parents?*
- *how can stakeholder concerns be anticipated and accommodated in research, development and implementation phases?*
- *how adequate is our messaging about assessment and its role in education? How effectively do we communicate with schools, parents, the public?*
- *how can we improve the assessment literacy of all stakeholders, including the media?*

The overall theme offers opportunity and indeed challenge to the assessment research and policy community to explore issues of technical development and implementation and also to consider the wider contexts around how assessment is perceived amongst those it is supposed to serve. Contributors may opt to focus on specific aspects of the theme, or to take a more holistic view that approaches assessment from the perspective of the end-user rather than the assessment professional. We invite you to be creative in interpreting the theme and look forward to stimulating discussions in Dublin on a topic that touches hundreds of millions of people across Europe and beyond.

## **Subthemes**

*In addition to relating to the overall theme, subthemes should relate to at least one of the following:*

- *Assessment of Practical Skills*
- *Comparative Judgement*
- *Educational Policy and Assessment*

- *E-assessment*
- *Fairness and Social Justice*
- *Formative Assessment*
- *Summative Assessment*
- *Higher Education and Assessment*
- *Language Issues in Assessment*
- *National Tests and Examinations*
- *International Assessments*
- *Psychometrics and Test Development (including Reliability, Validity)*
- *Test Development*
- *Assessment Cultures*
- *Other*

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.

### **Submission Formats**

The AEA-E conference comprises keynote addresses, open paper presentations, connected papers sessions, 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 reviewers 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 for submissions 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- Ignite presentation: Closing date for submissions 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Paper presentation: Closing date for submissions 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Connected papers presentation: Closing date for submissions 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Poster presentation: Closing date for submissions 17<sup>th</sup> 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 **four 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 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020)**

On the day preceding the conference a number of optional pre-conference workshops are run for conference attendees. A participation fee is payable, to cover the cost of rooms, facilities, coffee/tea, lunch and some presenter expenses.

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 organizer(s).

Pre-conference proposals are reviewed by the Scientific Programme Committee in cooperation with the Professional Development 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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**

Ignite presentations received positive reviews last 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.).

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 organizer(s).

### **Open paper presentation (submission deadline 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**

There are a number of parallel paper sessions on each conference day. These sessions comprise three individual papers and are allocated to 90 minute 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. 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 600 words). The short abstract should be written without references, while at least one reference should be given for the long abstract.

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.

### **Connected Papers Session (submission deadline 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**

This is a new format that is particularly suitable for those who conduct research in the same or related field and would like to present their results to the public together. Each connected papers session consists of three linked individual papers and will occupy a 90 minutes slot. Connected papers sessions will run in parallel with each other and/or with other presentations. Unlike in open paper presentation, there will be no discussant or chair in the session; hence you will be responsible for organizing the session (technical assistance will be provided), including time scheduling, allowing time for questions and discussion. When planning, please keep in mind that this format is primarily intended for discussion and interaction with the audience, so question and discussion time should be at least 40% of the time. It is up to you in what form and when you include it.

Connected papers session should include:

- *Session title, main convenor (main responsible person) and his/her affiliations*
- *Title, author(s) and their affiliation(s) of each of the papers (maximum of 3 papers)*

- 800 word overview of the session including proposed organization (how much time for the presentations, in which form, when, how the audience can ask questions, when, etc.)
- 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.

### **Poster proposals (submission deadline 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020)**

The posters will be presented in such a way that each poster will be presented electronically on a main screen visible to all delegates and the presenter.

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 able to be a co-presenter of other posters.

Each poster will be given a dedicated spot in the poster area. You will be expected to attend to present your poster during the poster session in the programme.

The poster format/size should be A0 – this is particularly appropriate for visual displays and work in progress. Please consider this when writing your proposal.

The posters will be presented in such a way that each poster will be presented electronically on the main screen and the presenters will have 90 seconds to introduce their work. One slot will be allowed for the poster presentation (typically 90 minutes). If multiple posters meet the minimum acceptance criteria, posters that scored more evaluation points will be given preference in the acceptance process until the maximum of the slot's time capacity is used.

Delegates at the conference will be asked to vote for their preferred poster. The poster with the most votes will win **The CITO Poster Award** which consists of the opportunity to visit CITO (NL), meeting other experts and getting to experience an institution deeply engaged in assessment development and production. 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.

*Stuart Shaw, Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, Cambridge Assessment, UK*

*Andrej Novik, Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, SCIO, Czech Republic*

*Elisa de Padua, Member, AEA-Europe member, University of Cambridge, UK*

*Nico Dieteren, Member, AEA-Europe member, CITO, the Netherlands*

*Gerry Shiel, Member, AEA-Europe member, ERC, Ireland*

**Please note that we will not proofread 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 the past three years 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/aea2020>

The submission process has two parts:

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

If you registered for EasyAcademia for a previous conference, you should use the same username and password to log in also for the 2020 AEA Europe submission.

Note that if you previously submitted for the 2016 AEA-Europe conference in Cyprus or any AEA conferences since then, 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, connected papers session 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, 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](mailto: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 get 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? ]
  - Connected Papers Session [ what is this? ]
  - Poster proposal [ what is this? ]
- 

continue >

Select the format corresponding to your submission.

## **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.

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[+ 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'.

### Choose Topics

Please select topics most applicable to your submission. If none of the topics below suit your submission, please choose the nearest applicable topic(s).

- 
- Assessment of Practical Skills
  - Comparative Judgement
  - Educational Policy and Assessment
  - E-assessment
  - Fairness and Social Justice
  - Formative Assessment
  - Higher Education and Assessment
  - Language Issues in Assessment
  - National Tests and Examinations
  - International Assessments
  - Psychometrics and Test Development (including Reliability, Validity)
  - Test Development
  - Assessment Cultures
  - Other

### 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*

The following file format(s) can be uploaded:  

### Step 8: Attachment

If you are submitting a Workshop, the Attachment step will appear. Complete the [Workshop Application 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*.

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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>

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## 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 (500 words):**

**Preparation for the workshop:**

### Tentative Schedule

Time	Session	Presenter
09.00	Coffee and registration	
09.30	Welcome & introductions Outline of the Workshop	
09.45		
11.00	Break	
11.30		
13.00	Lunch	
14.00		
15.30	Break	
15.45		
16.30	Workshop close	-

## APPENDIX B: Set up an Account

First, you will need to set up an account. Go to [www.easyacademia.org](http://www.easyacademia.org) and click on the “Get Started” button.



This link will bring up a signup page:

The image shows the sign-up page of the EasyAcademy website. The page has a light gray background with a blue 'SIGN UP' title at the top center. Below the title is the instruction: 'Please provide the details below to get started'. The form consists of several input fields: a dropdown menu for 'Prof.' with a downward arrow, followed by 'first name' and 'last name' text boxes. Below these are 'email address' and 'password' text boxes. At the bottom of the form are 'university / organization' and 'Serbia' (with a dropdown arrow) text boxes. A blue 'Create Account' button is centered below the form. At the bottom of the page, there is a blue left-pointing arrow 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 EasyAcademy 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.