

Special Session Call for Papers for ICL 2026

Sept 30–Oct 02, 2026, Wasserturm Hotel, Cologne, Germany



“Special Session: Strategies for Modern Advancement in Research and Teaching (SMART)”

as part of the 29th International Conference on Interactive Collaborative Learning &
55th IGIP International Conference on Engineering Pedagogy

SMART Background and Overview

The rapidly evolving landscape of education and research demands innovative strategies that bridge traditional methodologies with emerging technologies and interdisciplinary approaches. This special section, “Strategies for Modern Advancement in Research and Teaching,” aims to explore forward-thinking practices that enhance both the quality of research and the effectiveness of teaching in contemporary academic environments. The section will focus on the integration of digital tools, collaborative learning frameworks, and evidence-based pedagogical innovations that respond to the needs of diverse learners and globalized research communities. Emphasis is placed on fostering interactive and inclusive learning environments, promoting research-driven teaching, and leveraging technological advancements such as artificial intelligence, virtual laboratories, and data-driven decision-making. Contributions are encouraged to address topics including, but not limited to, innovative curriculum design, interdisciplinary collaboration, hybrid and online learning strategies, student engagement techniques, and methods for improving research impact and dissemination. The section also welcomes case studies, empirical research, and theoretical perspectives that demonstrate measurable improvements in learning outcomes and research productivity. By bringing together educators, researchers, and practitioners from various disciplines, this special section seeks to facilitate knowledge exchange and inspire the adoption of modern, sustainable, and scalable approaches in both teaching and research. Ultimately, it aims to contribute to the advancement of engineering pedagogy and interactive collaborative learning by highlighting strategies that prepare learners and researchers to thrive in an increasingly complex and digital world.

SMART Topics

- Interactive Collaborative Learning (ICL) methodologies and practices
- Engineering pedagogy innovations and didactic approaches (IGIP focus)

- Design and implementation of student-centered and active learning environments
- Technology-enhanced learning (TEL) in engineering education
- Artificial intelligence applications in engineering teaching and research
- Blended, hybrid, and online learning in technical disciplines
- Learning analytics and educational data mining for improved learning outcomes

SMART Special Session Chair(s)

- Assoc. Prof. PaedDr. Ing. Lucia Krištofiaková, PhD., ING-PAED IGIP, DTI University, Slovakia, kristofiakova@dti.sk

SMART Committee Member(s)

- Assoc. prof. Dr. Ibrahim Aljasser, Ph.D., Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia, ialjasser@psu.edu.sa
- Ing. Pavel Andres, Ph.D., ING-PAED IGIP, Czech Technical University, Czech Republic, pavel.andres@cvut.cz
- Prof. PaedDr. Elena Bendíková, PhD., Catholic University in Ružomberok, Slovakia, elena.bendikova@ku.sk
- Prof. Ing. Claudio Borri, Dr.- Ing. h.c. mult., University of Florence, Italy, claudio.borri@unifi.it
- Prof. Ing. Pavel Cyrus, CSc., University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, pavel.cyrus@uhk.cz
- Dr.h.c. prof. PhDr. PaedDr. Gabriela Gabrhelová, PhD., DBA, LL.M, DTI University, Slovakia, gabrhelova@dti.sk
- Prof. Dr. Mansur Galikhanov, Kazan National Research Technological University, Russia, mgalikhanov@yandex.ru
- Prof. Dr. Adnan ul Haque, Yorkville University, Canada, ahaque@yorkvilleu.ca
- Prof. PaedDr. Alena Hašková, CSc., Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia, ahaskova@ukf.sk
- Prof. PaedDr. Ing. Roman Hrmo, PhD., MBA, ING-PAED IGIP, DTI University, Slovakia, hrmo@dti.sk
- Assoc. Prof. Ing. Jana Jurinová, PhD., University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia, jana.jurinova@ucm.sk
- Prof., Dr.Sc. Olena Kovalenko, Ukrainian Engineering Pedagogics Academy, Ukraine, kovalenko@uipa.edu.ua
- HS-Prof Mag. Dr. Norbert Kraker, University College of Teacher Education in Vienna, Austria, norbert.kraker@phwien.ac.at

- Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches in engineering education
- Development of professional, digital, and transversal skills
- Inclusion, diversity, and accessibility in engineering education
- Open education, open science, and knowledge sharing practices
- Innovative approaches to enhancing student engagement and retention

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Oleksandr Kupriyanov, ING-PAED IGIP, Ukrainian Engineering Pedagogics Academy, Ukraine, a_kupriyanov@uipa.edu.ua
- Dr.h.c. prof. doc. PhDr. PaedDr. Ing. Daniel Lajčin, PhD., DBA, LL.M, DTI University, Slovakia, lajcin@dti.sk
- Mandy Liu Ph.D, Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan, Taiwan, mandyliu@ieet.org.tw
- Prof. Dr. Elena Mischenko, Tambov State Technical University, Russia, lenochkami@yandex.ru
- Assoc. Prof. PaedDr. Juraj Miština, PhD., University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Slovakia, juraj.mistina@ucm.sk
- HS-Prof. Mag. Dr. Daniela Moser, University College of Teacher Education Styria, Austria, daniela.moser@phst.at
- Prof. Dr. Anetta Müller, Ph.D., University of Debrecen, Hungary, muller.anetta@econ.unideb.hu
- Prof. dr hab. Henryk Noga, University of the National Education Commission, Krakow, Poland, henryk.noga@up.krakow.pl
- PhDr. Lucie Smékalová, Ph.D. et Ph.D., Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Czech Republic, smekaloval@ivp.czu.cz
- Prof. Dr. Zoltán Szűts, PhD., Eszterházy Károly Catholic University, Eger, Hungary, szuts.zoltan@uni-eszterhazy.hu
- Cecilia Alexandra Paredes Verduga, Ph. D., Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral, Ecuador, rectora@espol.edu.ec
- José Carlos Quadrado, BSc, MEng, MSc, PhD, DSc, Habil, Porto Polytechnic, Portugal, jcquadrado@gmail.com
- Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Petr Sládek, CSc., Masaryk University, Czech Republic, sladek@ped.muni.cz
- Dr.h.c. Assoc. Prof. Dr. István Szókol, PhD., ING-PAED IGIP, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia, istvan.szokol@uniba.sk
- Assoc. Prof. Kevin Taylor, Purdue University, USA, kdtaylor@purdue.edu
- Prof. Dr. Ricardo Ricci Uvinha, PhD., University of São Paulo, Brazil, uvinha@usp.br

General Information and Proceedings

Special sessions, held in parallel with the general conference, are an integral part of the conference. They provide researchers in focused areas the opportunity to meet and present their work and offer a forum for interaction among the broader community of technology-enhanced learning, and online engineering worldwide.

Special sessions papers are required to meet the same standards as papers in the general conference and are published in the same conference proceedings. Special Session papers must be submitted to STE submission server (ConfTool® Submission Server) to the respective Special Session track. Special Session papers will be reviewed by at least two members of the Special Session's Program Committee, and acceptance decisions will be made by the conference program Co-Chairs and Special Sessions Chairs. All accepted and presented papers will be published as ICL2026 Proceedings in the Springer series "Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems", which is indexed among others in Scopus and Compendex.

Important Deadlines

Submissions for the ICL2026 Special Sessions may be submitted by the following deadlines:

15 May 2026	Submission of complete Special Session Papers (no abstract stage)
15 June 2026	Notification of acceptance
15 July 2026	Camera-ready due & Author registration deadline
30 Sept 2026	ICL2026 Conference Opening