

TESE DAYS 2026

TALENTS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN EUROPE DAYS

PROGRAMME



Kick Off

THURSDAY 21 MAY
14:00-15:00

ONLINE ZOOM
SESSION

What to Expect and What to Prepare?

Hosts: Senior advisor Rebeca Schumacher Eder Fuao, PhD (USN) & Professor Rob Bongaardt (USN)

TESE DAYS 2026

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE
09:00-17:30

ON-SITE
CAMPUS DRAMMEN

08:30 Arrival and registration

09:00 Welcome Speech

Speaker: USN Vice-Rector for Research, Sustainability and Innovation, Professor Heidi Ormstad

09:15 The Entrepreneurial Scholar: “Finding a Market for Your Ideas”

This talk invites you to see yourself as an entrepreneurial scholar; not just producing knowledge, but applying it to real problems. Your PhD isn't just a credential, it's a toolkit for shaping your future. The key question is: What do you know, and who needs it? Learn to identify where your ideas meet real-world needs, communicate your value clearly, and open doors to collaboration, innovation, and new career paths.

Speaker: Professor Daryl Powell, Chair of Production Management, USN School of Business

09:55 Break the Ice and Get to Know Your PhD Fellow: Speed Dating Session and Personal Networking

Organiser: Senior Advisor USN, Rebeca Schumacher Eder Fua, PhD

10:40 Coffee Break

11:00 Shaping Europe's Talents – Challenges for the Future

Based on Mario Draghi's report and the Union of Skills, calling for stronger frontier research, particularly through the European Research Council (ERC), and proposes dedicated schemes for excellent research institutions to boost technology transfer, start-ups, and industry collaboration. He argues that it is needed to build a stronger link between research and industry.

Speaker: Director Johannes Waage Løvhaug (PhD), The Research Council of Norway, leads the Department for the Research and Innovation System, with the responsibility for researcher recruitment and early careers. Holds a PhD in intellectual history.

This programme may be subject to minor adjustments.



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DAY 1

11:30 Influence Policy and Social Change

PhD in the public sector enables professionals to bridge the gap between academic research and practical policy application, driving innovation in government and non-profit organizations. It prepares individuals to tackle complex societal issues, enhances career advancement into leadership roles, and supports long-term competency building within public agencies.

Speaker: Kjersti Draugedalen, senior advisor in Tønsberg Municipality. She leads the Research Council-funded innovation project Improving safeguarding for children and young people (2024–2028). With a public sector PhD on teachers as human rights defenders, she works at the intersection of research, practice, and policy to strengthen safeguarding in schools and public services. Her work shows how doctoral expertise can drive social change and inform evidence-based policy.

12:00 My PhD Journey

- Using and expanding your network
- Taking ownership of your development
- Preparing for life after the PhD

Speaker: Senior Advisor USN, Mary Anderson-Glenna, PhD in Microbiology. She brings over a decade of experience from roles spanning research, innovation, and industry collaboration, including positions as competence broker and researcher at Tel-Tek, QA engineer at BASF, and researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. She is currently the leader of the national EU administrators' network, a network of the Norwegian Network for Administration and Research Management.

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Parallel Workshops: *Making an Impact & Develop Professional Communication Skills*



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DAY 1

Workshop I: Communication Skills – “Presenting Yourself With a Powerful Professional Pitch”

- Learn how to create an impactful self-presentation for diverse contexts, from academic to professional environments.
- Master how to introduce your competences in an effective and clear speech.
- **Building a professional narrative, how to explain who you are and what you do**

Workshop holder: Project Manager Cécile Bauer, Entrepreneurship Centre, University of Rennes

Workshop II: Communication and Collaboration in Research Teams

This workshop helps PhD candidates strengthen their ability to collaborate effectively in teams that face time pressure and varied interests. Participants will practice “clean questioning” — a non-directive, assumption-free approach to inquiry — to foster more open dialogue, inclusive participation, and mutual understanding. By applying these skills, attendees will learn how to build psychological safety and make the most of their team’s interdisciplinary potential.

Workshop holder: Prof. Rob Bongaardt, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, USN

15:00 Coffee Break

15:20 Workshops Continue

16:45 Mentor Meetings

17:20 Free Time

18:30 “Bar pitch” – Pitch your PhD Story & Future Life

Location: The Student House, Drammen – Free pizza

Organized by: Luciano Netto De Lima, PhD Candidate, USN

DAY 2



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DAY 2

THURSDAY 11 JUNE
08:00-17:50

ON-SITE
CAMPUS VESTFOLD

08:00 Bus from Campus Drammen to Campus Vestfold

08:45 Coffee & Refreshments

09:15 Lab Tour, Simulator Training & Company Visits

Visit to the the NorFab Laboratory (The Norwegian Infrastructure for Micro- and Nanofabrication), and trying the maritime simulator at the Centre of Excellence in Maritime Simulator Training and Assessment (COAST). Presentation of Coast by Professor Salman Nazir, Department of Maritime Operations, and Head of Training and Assessment Research Group (TARG), USN. Company visit TBA.

12:00 Lunch

12:50 Parallel Workshops: *From Research to Real-World Impact – Turning Ideas into Opportunities*

Workshop III: Entrepreneurial Spirit and Innovative Thinking

- Demonstrate proactive mindset and develop entrepreneurial spirit
- Understand the potential of entrepreneurial competence

As a researcher, your ideas carry the potential to shape industries, influence society, and spark new solutions. By developing an entrepreneurial mindset and understanding how to position your research in the world, through value creation, collaboration, and clear problem-solving, you can unlock pathways that transform knowledge into meaningful impact. By embracing an entrepreneurial mindset and daring to explore the real-world potential of your ideas, you open doors to new industries, new collaborations, and new ways of creating value.

Workshop holder: Associate Professor Thomas Brekke, USN School of Business

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DAY 2

Workshop IV: Finding a Market for Your Ideas

- Intro to Knowledge Transfer & Innovation Management: *Spin-offs, idea development patents, licensing, and collaboration models.*
- Value Proposition Design for Researchers: *What problem do you solve, for whom, and why you?*
- Industry and Stakeholder Mapping: *Who might care about your results: companies, policymakers, communities, users.*

Workshop holders: Project Manager, Aline Pereira da Silva and Senior Advisor, Inger Marie Ellingsen - Unit for Commercialisation and Innovation, USN

14:20 Coffee Break

14:40 Workshops Continue

16:30 Mentor Meetings

17:10 Bus from Campus Vestfold to Campus to Drammen

17:50 Free Time

DAY 3



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DAY 3

FRIDAY 12 JUNE
09:00-15:00

ON-SITE
CAMPUS DRAMMEN

09:00 Panel Debate: *"Beyond the PhD - Navigating Your Career and Future Life"*

As the landscape of research and innovation continues to evolve, so do the opportunities available to PhD candidates. This panel invites you to look beyond your doctoral journey and reflect on the many paths that can shape your future. Together, we explore how to become conscious about your next steps, identify your unique skills, and discover diverse career possibilities—both within and outside academia. We also delve into the power of networking, the value of knowledge transfer, and the challenges and opportunities that emerge as you chart your professional and personal path forward.

Facilitator: Professor Gillian Warner-Søderholm, Head of Department of Business, Strategy and Political Sciences, USN School of Business

Participants: Mary Andersoon-Glenna, PhD, Luciano Netto De Lima, PhD Candidate, Nathalie Houtzamer, Lecturer, Department of Business Management - University of Masaryk, Dimitrios Polychronopoulos, PhD, Monica Fagerlie, Senior Advisor, Inrescos Research School of Complex Systems, David. S.A. Guttormsen, Prof. in Organisation and Management, USN School of Business.

10:15 Coffe Break

10:35 Parallel Workshops: *Career Planning*

Get equipped with the tools and insights needed to navigate diverse career paths—both inside and beyond academia. Through guided reflection and hands-on exercises, you will clarify your goals, identify strengths and transferable skills, and explore opportunities across sectors. Be prepared for developing your own individual career plan and building a professional profile that reflects who you are and where you want to go. The workshops will focus on how to identify goals and find your skills beyond research. Explore opportunities in different sectors and find your professional and personal strengths and interests.

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DAY 3

Workshop V: *Shape your future and explore opportunities in different sectors*

Workshop holder: Núria Sánchez-Pantoja Belenguer, University of Jaume

Workshop VI: *Identify goals and skills beyond research*

Workshop holder: Career advisor, Amy Tannum, Karriere Buskerud

11:50 Lunch

12:50 Workshops Continue

14:05 Coffee Break

14:20 Mission Completed: Turn Your PhD Superpower Employable

You arrived with questions - You leave with options. Not just job titles—but missions. Not just career paths—but platforms to shape the future of Europe's economy, public services, and democratic resilience.

Speaker: Professor Gillian Warner-Søderholm, Head of Department of Business, Strategy and Political Sciences, USN School of Business

14:40 Summary & Feedback

15:00 Goodbye

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