

# PREPARING FOR STRATEGIC PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

FOR ASPIRING  
SENIOR LEADERS  
OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



KNIR  
KONINKLIJK NEDERLANDS  
INSTITUUT ROME

17 TO 21 MAY 2026

## Preliminary programme structure and themes

- April 2026: Online introductory webinar
  - o Programme aims, structure and expectations from participants
  - o Plenary presentations: Leading contemporary professional services in higher education in turbulent times
  - o Participants thematic discussions and networking
- 17 to 21 May 2026: Intensive face-to face programme in Rome
- October 2026: Online webinar
  - o Presentation of individual and peer work
  - o Feedback by Assessment Panel

SUNDAY 17.05.26 (16:00)	<b>Welcome and introduction</b>  <b>Setting the scene: Leading universities in turbulent times: Conversations with senior university leaders</b>  <b>Peer networking</b>
MONDAY 18.05.26	<u>Morning</u>  <b>Setting the scene: Leading universities in the VUCA world</b> (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity)  <b>Leading multiple crises, daily:</b> university approaches and leadership styles (based on practical examples)  <u>Afternoon</u>  <b>Building Institutional Resilience:</b> Addressing Global Research and Knowledge Security Risks (including the ethical impact of research)
TUESDAY 19.05.26	<u>Morning</u>  <b>Navigating Global Demographic Trends:</b> Implications for Higher Education and University Leadership Responses  <b>Leading institutional financial sustainability and resilience:</b> income diversification; financial risk management in volatile environments; sustainable economic models

	<p><u>Afternoon</u></p> <p><b>Transformational leadership to deliver on climate mitigation in universities:</b> Why and how?</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 20.05.26</p>	<p><u>Morning</u></p> <p><b>Embracing Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Industry 5.0 and Hyperconnectivity in Education, Research, and university Professional Services:</b> Navigating the opportunities, risks, the compliance challenges (including cybersecurity and privacy)</p> <p><b>Thriving in leadership and leading with resilience in turbulent times</b></p> <p><u>Afternoon</u></p> <p><b>Driving effective strategic planning in uncertain times:</b> aligning with the university mission</p>
<p>THURSDAY 21.05.26 (13:30)</p>	<p><u>Morning</u></p> <p><b>Leading people and the future workforce in universities:</b> building the multigenerational workforce (diversity and inclusion agendas; different expectations and work styles; upskilling needs, succession planning); the health and wellbeing evolution</p> <p><b>Closing plenary session: Next steps</b></p>