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# Special Interest Group: Collaborations of Hospitality Education and Industry for Lifelong Learning

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## Background and relevance of the topic to the conference

Hospitality education and the industry have long benefited from strong ties and partnerships. The preparation of hospitality students for the sector is enriched through traditional partnerships, resulting in guest lectures, engagement with real-world issues, case studies, company visits, and internships. A continuous influx of well-educated professionals into companies introduces fresh ideas and new approaches to work. However, while these connections are crucial, they must evolve to address current challenges such as labour shortages, the need for adaptability and resilience, the changing requirements of professionals, and new perspectives on education and training. Engaging with these matters necessitates a profound understanding of the issues and a collective effort to create innovative and sustainable solutions. Therefore, the Roundtable seeks to merge two conference tracks: labour shortage and rethinking career paths, along with educational innovations in hospitality and tourism training and development.

## The objective of the Roundtable

The Roundtable intends to establish the EMEA CHRIE Special Interest Group (SIG), which will inspire and research innovative collaborative practices in Lifelong Learning. This SIG can serve as a hub and community for international hospitality researchers, educators, industry liaison officers and industry practitioners to explore how education and industry can co-create meaningful lifelong learning pathways. Our purpose is to launch and nurture a collaborative platform that drives research into and for innovative and unconventional solutions, fostering the ongoing development of the next generation of hospitality professionals and our dynamic industry.

During the Roundtable, we will exchange best practices, insights, and lessons learned, as well as discuss concerns and challenges regarding collaboration between hospitality education and the industry. We also look forward to engaging in an open dialogue with you, gathering your experiences and ideas to help shape the direction of the new SIG, guided by the following questions:

## Discussion Questions

1. What examples of innovative, collaborative practices in lifelong learning are you familiar with or have experienced in your educational practices?
2. To what extent do you—hospitality educators, researchers, and industry practitioners—recognise the potential to collaborate beyond traditional partnerships primarily to address workforce and career progression challenges in the industry?
3. What and how can a Special Interest Group (SIG) contribute to strengthening a co-creative mindset and new ways of collaboration for lifelong learning between hospitality education and the industry?

## Contact details and affiliations of organiser(s)

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