



NEXT STOP SEVILLE!

The Board of FUCE joined Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça and Professor Isabel Capelo Gil with fellow members of IFCU at LUMSA in Rome (18-19 January) to participate in The University and the Church conference to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the Federation. Among the highlights of the gathering was an audience with Pope Francis who took the time to greet everyone present in person.

In his address to the gathering, Pope Francis highlighted two aspects of the historical roots of the Federation. Firstly, the imperative among Catholic and ecclesiastical universities to collaborate through networking and cooperating together through common research projects to address the complex challenges facing human life, society and the planet.

'in the wake of a horrendous war' to be a means of fostering 'reconciliation and the growth of peace and charity among peoples'

There are almost two thousand Catholic universities spread throughout the world. Pope Francis encouraged us to imagine the potential of more effective and improved working relationships for strengthening the Catholic university system.

Continues on page 2

This is one of the key objectives of the forthcoming FUCE General Assembly at the Universidad Loyola Seville which will take place 5-7 June. In addition to three speakers from Rome, Lyons and Seville discussing the inescapable impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on university education and the need to equip students for careers in an AI age, time and space will be dedicated during the assembly for structured networking among participants to facilitate engagement and exchange of ideas and information between member universities.

At the most recent meeting of the Board of FUCE, time was dedicated to exploring how to introduce various activities and supports for research projects between Catholic universities. The Board hopes to bring forward some concrete proposals to the members of FUCE after some further consideration.

The second aspect Pope Francis noted was that the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) was established 'in the wake of a horrendous war' to be a means of fostering 'reconciliation and the growth of peace and charity among peoples'. Sad to say, as Pope Francis noted, we are celebrating the centenary of IFCU against a backdrop of war in Europe, the Holy Land and so many parts of the world.

In the written text of his speech, he stated: "It is all the more essential that Catholic universities be in the forefront of all efforts to build the culture of peace, in all its facets, which needs to be addressed in the interdisciplinary vision." He added: "At a time of great fragmentation, we must dare to counter the trend, and to globalise hope, unity and concord in place of indifference, polarisation and conflict."

The General Assembly in Seville will be opened by Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça and Professor Isabel Capeloa Gil and it will be an opportunity to foster the founding and shared objectives of IFCU and FUCE. I look forward to seeing you there.

Rev Prof Michael Mullaney
President – FUCE



CELEBRATING BY GIVING BACK

Last year was a special one for Radboud University. Established in 1923 as the Roomsche-Katholieke Universiteit, the university celebrated its centenary in 2023. To mark the occasion, Radboud University set out to share its knowledge with all inhabitants of the city of Nijmegen. Inspired by the tradition of 'good works', professors and students offered the city's inhabitants 100 so-called Radboud Gestures.

On October 17th, the Dies Natalis started in the St Petrus Canisius Church, just like it did a century before. Directly after the Eucharist there was an academic ceremony attended by King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands where our new Rector Magnificus José Sanders was officially installed. In her speech she referred explicitly to her predecessor, the canonized martyr Titus Brandsma, whose portrait has recently been engraved on the Rector's chain.

On December 1st, the university opened a new institute: the Laudato Si' Institute for integral ecology. The recognition of how Laudato Si' contributes to thinking on ecology and justice in the spirit of charity and hope is in line with the history and the future of Radboud University as a socially engaged institution.



CONTENTS

Next Stop Seville!	1
Major Belgian institutions officially unite	4
Stronger & better together - Success story between Lumsa & Lyon Catholic University	5
A Memorable Encounter - Pope Francis Inspires Hope at Universidade Católica Portuguesa	6
Lille Summer School to discuss AI in the context of European Humanism	8
Member Profile - Empowering Future Evangelisers at Universidad Eclesiástica San Dámaso	10
New faces	12
FUCE General Assembly	18

NEWS IN BRIEF

Celebrating by giving back	2
News from Ramon Llull	3
Addressing the challenges facing Catholic universities	4
Brain health and resilience Valencia challenge	13

21st century youth mobility in focus	14
Virtual exchange at KU Leuven	14
I Congreso Internacional “Mujeres, tecnología y poder” en Deusto	15
Social entrepreneurship at Antonine University	15
UCLy- Création d’une Maison de la Recherche et de l’Entreprise	16
Remembering Julius Nyerere	16
Exploring the religious significance of posture & motion	16
Promouvoir la responsabilité sociale en Liban	17
UCP Refugee Scholarship Program	17
Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University celebrates guiding spirit	19
Training the trainers to guide young people on sexuality	19
Deepening societal resilience	19
Emerging Worlds chair celebrates first year’s work	20
New Grand Chancellor for San Damaso	20
University Management: Tradition & Innovation	20



NEWS FROM RAMON LLULL

Higher Education Institutions (HEI) are changing, adapting themselves to the new economic, demographic, social and technological environment; and education, training and research are fundamental to success. Today, there are interesting opportunities for increased collaboration with international institutions that can enhance research, cultural exchange, and academic partnerships.

It is in this context that Ramon Llull University has joined ENGAGE.EU, a strategic alliance

of nine prestigious European universities in the fields of business, economic and social sciences. Its main objective is to provide European citizens with the skills and competences needed to face the main challenges of society, such as digitalisation and artificial intelligence, climate change, ageing societies, and migration.

The ENGAGE.EU Annual Conference kicked off this relevant and challenging project in Rome last October.

NEWS IN BRIEF



ITALY

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACING CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES

On November 22nd, 2023, two members of EFCU's administrative board, Prof Gennaro Iasevoli and Rev Prof David Koonce, represented the federation at a listening session organised by the Dicastery for Culture and Catholic Education. The meeting brought together representatives from various federations and networks from around the world. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the Dicastery with insights regarding the challenges that Catholic universities face, as well as opportunities for growth and collaboration in fulfilling the mission of Catholic higher education.



Vincent Blondel (à gauche), Recteur de l'UCLouvain et Pierre Jadoul, le Vice-Recteur du site Saint-Louis (ancien Recteur de L'Université Saint-Louis)

HISTORIC MERGER

MAJOR BELGIAN INSTITUTIONS OFFICIALLY UNITE

Université Saint-Louis-Bruxelles and UCLouvain officially merged on September 14th 2023, joining forces after a long-standing academic collaboration.

Specialising in undergraduate degrees, humanities and multilingual programmes, Saint-Louis Bruxelles has come together with UCLouvain, Belgium's leading French-speaking university. Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles is now one of UCLouvain's eight campuses and has become "UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles".

Located in different cities, the two parties to the merger will remain autonomous for academic programmes and international relations services. At the UCLouvain Saint-Louis Bruxelles campus, student mobilities, staff mobilities, and interinstitutional agreements continue to be managed by the campus's International Office.

Some adjustments such as the Erasmus code and the EWP connection will be made.

This merger represents a promising opportunity, uniting two major institutions to enrich higher education in Belgium. Together, the merged universities are writing a new page in academic history, combining expertise and diversity for an even more dynamic educational experience.



STRONGER & BETTER TOGETHER

SUCCESS STORY BETWEEN LUMSA & LYON CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

By Dr Kévin Pon (UCLy) and
Dr Gennaro Iasevoli (LUMSA)

ESDES, the business school of Lyon Catholic University, continues to develop its international partnership network through its deepening relationship with LUMSA in Rome. The two institutions are situated quite closely from a European perspective, and they share an interest in working together to enhance the student experience both at undergraduate and graduate level.

The partnership enables students to experience the two Catholic universities' common values in different cultures alongside students of different nationalities thereby enhancing their social skills and fostering their ability to work with people from different backgrounds. This ultimately produces an environment of where collective performance is enhanced to the benefit of all involved.

For the last two years the two universities have been working on a Double Masters Degree in Marketing where students spend one year on each campus. Although numbers are still small at both LUMSA and UCLy, it has been encouraging to see mobility in both directions.

The second project will begin this semester when ESDES will send a group of 30 undergraduates to spend twelve weeks participating in six classes at LUMSA as an integral part of their studies. Students can choose to spend this period in one of Lyon Catholic University's partner schools around the world, but the desire to work with LUMSA is a demonstration that internationalisation is not just about travelling from continent to continent at a time when reducing our carbon footprint is more important than ever before. This highlights the value of working closely with our European neighbours.

The fact that the initiative commenced with a Double Degree Masters programme rather than simple student and academic exchanges demonstrates the commitment of the two institutions to international development and provides a solid foundation for future projects involving other disciplines and stakeholders within the universities.



A MEMORABLE ENCOUNTER

POPE FRANCIS INSPIRES HOPE AT UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA PORTUGUESA

Pope Francis visited the Universidade Católica Portuguesa on August 3rd, 2023 for the Meeting with Young University Students as part of World Youth Day Lisbon which was attended by around 7,000 people. University students from throughout Portugal and around the world, “the Pope’s Youth” as they call themselves, listened attentively to His Holiness who urged them to “seek and take risks” and to “replace fears with dreams”.

At the ceremony, the President of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Isabel Capeloa Gil, welcomed the Holy Father and after a presentation on the University said: “We are a University with a strong social sense, awarding scholarships and prizes to more than twenty per cent of our students”. She added that “the University is by definition a space of search, risk, discomfort, dialogue and welcome”.

The President also emphasised that “in the face of realities marked by exclusion and inequality, in a time of uncertainty, the University stands as the guardian of hope, which means promoting the capacity to dream, helping to discern, listening to the voices around us, listening to the time, intervening in it, defending the dignity of women and men, and believing in their capacity for transformation.”



The Holy Father also heard testimonies from students involved in the Global Education Pact, in the Economy of Francesco initiative, in the application of the encyclical *Laudato si'*, and from Mahoor Kaffashian, an Iranian refugee and student of dental medicine at the Faculty of Dental Medicine of Católica.

Mahoor shared a powerful testimony of resilience. Her journey from displacement to finding a home at Universidade Católica Portuguesa echoed the Pope's message of strength in the face of challenges. Mahoor's commitment to spreading love, hope, and faith exemplified the culture of encounter promoted by the university.

Tomás Virtuoso, a second-year student at the Faculty of Theology, highlighted how his generation is being asked not to ignore the many intuitions that *Laudato si'* throws, namely to encourage to evangelise, to say without fear that a true integral ecology is not possible without God, and that there can be no future in a world without God.

Mariana Craveiro, a psychology graduate from the Faculty of Education and Psychology, shared her experiences of serving the vulnerable through the volunteering programme organised by the University. Her commitment to a life of service and the common good align with Pope Francis's vision for integral ecology and political participation.

Beatriz Ataíde, a philosophy student at the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences, expressed gratitude for the Pope's invitations to deepen understanding and mission. She emphasised her commitment to cultural vigilance, being leaven in the dough and salt of the earth. Beatriz's words reflected the Pope's encouragement to be cultural agents for a healthy society.

In his address, Pope Francis shared profound reflections on the concept of being pilgrims, drawing parallels between the journey of a

university student, the pursuit of scientific knowledge, and the spiritual quest. The Holy Father also asked young people to ensure that "academic titles are not just a selfish and personal privilege". He said that he dreams of a "generation of masters, masters of humanity, masters of compassion, masters of new opportunities for the planet and its inhabitants, masters of hope".

Addressing the challenges of the present, Pope Francis called for a university committed to social responsibility and rejecting elitism. He urged students to be protagonists of change, engaging in a "new choreography" that places the human person at the centre.

The Pope highlighted the urgency of caring for the common home, urging a holistic approach that combines ecological and social concerns. He emphasised the need for integral ecology and a change in the anthropological vision underlying economics and politics. (Read the complete message [here.](#))

The ceremony also included the blessing of the first stone of the new campus of Católica (*Campus Veritati*).





LILLE SUMMER SCHOOL TO DISCUSS AI IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN HUMANISM

In 2024, the FUCE summer school will take place in Lille, France for the first time.

This is the fifth edition of the Summer School which will present a unique programme on European Humanism in the Making. This intensive programme is inspired by the appeal made by Pope Francis in May 2016 for the recovery of a lost – or maybe never fully recognised – soul of Europe. Based on the agenda for a new humanism resulting from historical knowledge and the ethical recollection that it can foster collectively, the European Federation of Catholic Universities took the initiative to develop an interdisciplinary study programme entitled ‘European Humanism in the Making’.

In doing so it aims to address the Pope’s question “What happened to humanist Europe, the defender

of human rights, democracy and freedom?” and take it further to tap into historical roots as bearers of future prospects for the European project.

One of the most important intellectual tasks of the present is the development of a new kind of humanism. Current global conflicts in politics, economics, culture and religion call out for defining and strengthening a global culture of values and humanity. Fundamentalism and terrorism, as well as hunger, poverty and misery in many parts of the world provide evidence for this necessity.

Globalisation demands new cultural and educational orientations. There is a need to define the underlying values and norms.



This requires a reflection on what it means to be a human being in all its diversity and changeability.

The programme consists of five courses structured in two parts:

PART I – Historical and Cultural Roots: Implications for Europe Today

- I. Contribution of History to European Consciousness
- II. Literature, the Arts, Translation and European Identity
- III. European Enlightenment and the Islamic Heritage

PART II – Social and Political Construction: Implications for the Future of Europe

- IV. European Social Humanism
- V. Creative Leadership & Civic Engagement in Action

Each year a specific theme is put to the fore and presented in the public opening lecture by an invited keynote speaker. This year's theme is on the challenges artificial intelligence poses to the concept of humanism. It will be introduced by Thierry Magnin, doctor in theology and physics, rector for the humanities at Université Catholique de Lille and former president of FUCE.

Welcome to Lille, at a crossroads of Europe

Home to the Université Catholique de Lille since 1875, Lille is a vibrant and dynamic university city at the centre of Western Europe. With swift connections to Brussels (35 minutes), Paris (60 minutes), and London (80 minutes), Lille is perfect for students planning to visit and study Europe. And there is always much to see and do in Lille itself – a welcoming multicultural haven.

Lille is a cultural destination with much to offer. Art lovers stroll the Palais des Beaux Arts, home to the second largest fine arts collection in France after the Louvre – with a collection including Rubens, Van Dyck, Goya, and Delacroix – the ancient Hospice Comtesse with works dating back to the 13th century, the Modern Art Museum whose impressive holding includes works by Picasso, Braque, Miro, and Modigliani, and La Piscine, located in a former art deco swimming pool in neighbouring Roubaix. Further afield, one can find world-renowned museums such as the Louvre-Lens Museum, which opened in 2013 to supplement the Louvre in Paris, and the Matisse Museum in Le Cateau-Cambresis, his hometown. Other galleries and museums abound.

Practical information:

- **Dates: Online element in May/ June and July 1st to 5th, 2024.**
- **Bachelor students in 2nd or 3rd year.**
- **Eligible for Erasmus funding as a Blended Intensive Program (BIP).**
- **Home universities cover transportation costs.**
- **FUCE will cover expenses for Albania, Vatican, Georgia, Lebanon, Ukraine and France.**
- **Deadline for nomination of participants by the home universities: 22 January 2024.**
- **Final selection of participants by the coordinators in February.**

More information:

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MEMBER PROFILE

EMPOWERING FUTURE EVANGELISERS AT UNIVERSIDAD ECLESIAÍSTICA SAN DÁMASO

By Fr Javier Ma Prades Lopes, Rector

Our mission at Universidad Eclesiástica San Dámaso (USED), Madrid is to transmit the truth by training our students to become driving forces for ecclesial and social change. The University is dedicated to the sciences promoted by the Church: Theology, Canon Law, Philosophy, Christian and Classic Literature, and Religious Studies.

For over one hundred years, we have been committed to Catholic Higher Education within our Diocese, and we are the only Ecclesiastical University outside Rome that relies on Spanish as its medium of instruction.

We cultivate a knowledge of Christian Revelation that is faithful to the Magisterium of the Church and leads to a deeper understanding of the faith. We encourage all our students to participate in, stimulate, and become leaders in the urgent mission of evangelisation, according to their individual callings.

We supplement our university programmes with a wide range of extra-curricular activities: conferences, academic courses, round-table discussions, exhibits, and so on. These provide our students with further

educational opportunities to delve into the everyday reality of our society and of the Church in Spain, as well as deeper fundamental matters within each ecclesiastical discipline.

Our academic degrees have the approval of the Holy See and are recognized officially in Spain.

Four faculties and one institute comprise our academic community. In addition, we have a worldwide presence and work in over 50 countries and 25 Spanish dioceses.

We offer personalised higher education which includes constant dialogue between professors and students. Our flexible methodology adjusts to the real needs of our students, in pursuit of their total development, and enhances their ability to craft a synthesis of the knowledge they are acquiring.



International learning

Universidad Eclesiástica San Dámaso has been part of the Erasmus Program since 2015. Since then, our main objective has been to spread out the existing development opportunities and advantages involved in an international experience, not only at an academic level, but also at a language, cultural, human and social level. Mobility programs are a key step in the strategic plan of our university. As a result of the outcomes achieved over the years, participation has increased significantly as have the grants awarded to the university. These, in addition to the positive experiences of our students, have made the Erasmus+ Programme an important and tangible reality in our institution.

Strategic Alliances

The UESD has a solid network of international collaborators. Over these years great efforts have been made on the consolidation of these inter-institutional agreements as well as on the creation of new ones. Taking advantage of synergies has brought diversification of destination countries as well as of the bachelors, masters and doctorate programmes. As a result, the number of incoming students and professors increases every year. A full list of institutional agreements can be found at: sandamaso.es/erasmus/convenios/#universidades



Outcomes for students

Surveys carried out among our students have found that they are becoming more and more active in the internationalisation of their education. Some of the skills students say they have acquired by the end of their Erasmus+ programme are: improved self-empowerment, self-esteem and self-confidence; significant progress in knowledge of foreign languages, greater intercultural awareness, increased proactivity in problem solving, development of critical thinking, and adaptability to new circumstances. The Erasmus+ Programme definitely pay off! More details can be found at: sandamaso.es/erasmus/testimonios

Future plans

In the medium term the objective is to continue promoting people's education, increasing participation within the Erasmus+ Programme, and supporting the whole academic community by offering permanent and international learning which will provide solid and prolonged effects that will manifest throughout professional lives and will help to better understand the reality and challenges of today's European society. For UESD staff, the objective is to reinforce the link between education and research and learn about new teaching environments to ensure they a real impact on the academic training our young people receive.



NEW FACES

In this edition we introduce three recently appointed rectors at FUCE member universities.



Juan José Etxeberria **Rector of the University of Deusto**

Juan José Etxeberria was appointed rector of the University of Deusto in May 2023. A Professor of Philosophy of Law, he was provincial of the Jesuits of the Loyola Province from 2008 to 2014, when the various Jesuit provinces of Spain were unified into a single province.

Since 2015, he has held various positions at Deusto as vice rector of the University Community. He also taught at the Gregorian University in Rome and at the Centre Sèvres in Paris.

Along with academic activity, he has been involved in the formation of young Jesuits and various pastoral activities. He collaborated as a volunteer in numerous social projects in Paris, Rome and Bilbao. He is also the author of publications on Canon Law and Philosophy of Law, as well as a large number of works related to Ignatian spirituality.



Msgr Alfonso Vincenzo Amarante **Magnificent Rector, Pontifical Lateran University**

On August 1st 2023, the Holy Father, Pope Francis appointed Msgr Alfonso Vincenzo Amarante C.Ss.R, as the new Magnificent Rector of the Pontifical Lateran University. Msgr Amarante had been the Dean of the Pontifical Higher Institute of Moral Theology at the Alphonsian Academy. The Pope also conferred him with the title of Archbishop, assigning him the Titular See of Sorres. He succeeded Prof Vincenzo Buonomo, the outgoing Magnificent Rector. Prof Riccardo Ferri, Full Professor of Trinitarian Theology and former Dean of the Faculty of Theology, has been appointed the Pro-Rector of the Pontifical Lateran University ad biennium, succeeding Prof Antonio Pitta.



Fabio Gómez-Estern Rector of Universidad Loyola

Fabio Gómez-Estern was appointed rector of Universidad Loyola in September 2023. Gómez-Estern holds degrees in telecommunications engineering from the University of Seville and economics from the London School of Economics. He also holds a PhD in control systems from the French Grande École Supélec, Paris. He joined Loyola University in 2013 as the Director and Founder of Loyola's School of Engineering and the postgraduate Engineering School.

He has had an extensive international career both in industry and academia. He joined France Télécom in Paris and Abengoa in Seville and led projects for large companies in the naval systems, aeronautics, telecommunications and construction companies including Airbus, Navantia, Ghenova, and Azvi. He moved into the higher education system in 1998 when he joined the Grande École Supélec, Paris. He subsequently moved to the Control Systems Department at the University of Seville, where he later became the Director.

He continues research activity in the fields of control systems and teaching innovation, where he created Doctus, a widely used e-learning platform for engineering. He has been a visiting professor at universities worldwide and has coordinated seminars and scientific conferences in his field. He has published numerous articles in world-class scientific journals (IEEE Tr. On Automatic Control, with more than 1,000 citations) and conferences (CDC, IEEE).

NEWS IN BRIEF



SPAIN

BRAIN HEALTH AND RESILIENCE VALENCIA CHALLENGE

The Catholic University of Valencia San Vicente Mártir (UCV) has launched an ambitious project on research, clinical innovation and training on brain health and resilience, led by UCV Researchers with the scientific counsel of Harvard's Professor Álvaro Pascual-Leone, one of the world top experts in Neurology. This will transform Valencia into a world leader in the prevention and treatment of psychiatric and neurological diseases.

The project "Brain Health and Resilience Valencia Challenge" tackles a double commitment: maintaining the optimal functioning of the brain in everyone's lifetime preventing cognitive problems and developing early intervention strategies on the one hand; and promoting brain health resilience to minimise its damage in patients with neurological and psychiatric pathologies on the other.

[More information](#)



NEWS IN BRIEF



CROATIA

21ST CENTURY YOUTH MOBILITY IN FOCUS

The meeting of the International Research Group for Social Sciences of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) was held on the 11th and 12th October 2023 at the Catholic University of Croatia (CUC), in Zagreb, Croatia. The meeting was attended by 30 scientists from around the world.

The eminent scientists had an opportunity to present research results and discuss the topic “the mobility of Youth in 21st Century”. In three thematic blocks, scientists discussed migration processes, challenges in the integration of

youth and the relationship between technology, mobility and education.

Catholic universities can and should help in establishing policies that respect human dignity and receiving the students and professors in the mobility programmes. The meeting host, Vice-Rector for International Relations at the CUC, Professor Hrvoje Štefančić, PhD, stressed that the topic and focused work of scientists from different areas of research offer an excellent opportunity to gather new knowledge and to consolidate standards in this important area.



BELGIUM

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE AT KU LEUVEN

UnaVEx, a new Virtual Exchange in Higher Education Project, brings together three Una Europa partners (KU Leuven, Helsinki and Bologna) and three African partner universities (Nairobi, Johannesburg and Kinshasa). UnaVEx builds on the Una Europa Micro-Credential in Sustainability and will design a virtual exchange framework for international and interdisciplinary sustainability education. The virtual exchange will take place in small groups to encourage deep learning and interactive discussions on specific topics of sustainability transformation, climate change,

biodiversity, sustainable economy, and the arts.

In addition, the Una Europa–Africa Partnership Seed Funding Call 2023 has been launched. Co-developed by Una Europa partners and eight African universities as part of their shared Vision and Roadmap, the call is currently open for proposals in joint education, research, innovation and societal outreach, and features mobility fellowships for researchers.

una-europa.eu/opportunities/una-europa-africa-partnership-seed-funding-call-2023

NEWS IN BRIEF



ESPAÑA

I CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL "MUJERES, TECNOLOGÍA Y PODER" EN DEUSTO

La Universidad de Deusto celebra los días 18 y 19 de junio, en su campus de San Sebastián, el I Congreso Internacional "Mujeres, tecnología y poder". En este encuentro, fruto de la colaboración entre Deusto, la Universidad de Amsterdam y la Universidad Politécnica de Valencia dentro del programa de investigación ARES (Analyzing Antifeminist Resistances), se analizarán los factores que dificultan el empoderamiento de las mujeres a través de la tecnología, con especial interés por las contribuciones que los estudios feministas interdisciplinarios vienen realizando a la cuestión. Se prevé la participación de más de 150 personas expertas de varios países y entre los ponentes principales se encuentra Catherine D'Ignazio, profesora del Massachusetts Institute of Technology, especializada en activismo de datos. Este congreso supone la culminación del proyecto ARES, un trabajo de cuatro años dedicados a detectar y denunciar el antifeminismo y vislumbrar futuros más justos en los contenidos y comportamientos de las plataformas.

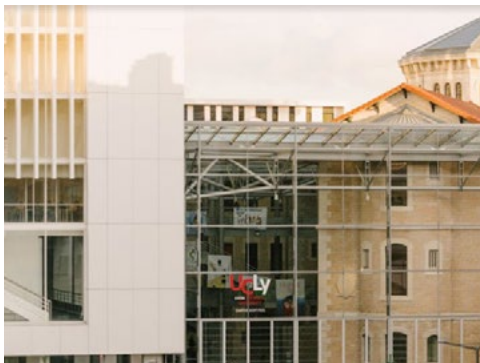
LEBANON

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT ANTONINE UNIVERSITY

Antonine University (UA) of Lebanon has established a social enterprise incubator on its premises. UA proactively came up with this initiative as part of its involvement in the EU SAFIR project since 2020. Beyond empowering UA students to turn ideas infused with compassion and ethical imagination into innovative businesses built on social value, the programme aims at equipping them with the tools needed to be able to identify areas where society has struck an unjust balance. Under the guidance of UA academic and administrative staff members, the seed of social value will help them to start building an alternative business model founded on fairness, sustainability, and human welfare. With this in mind, it is hoped that a new normal will be created, one characterised by equity where hardship once prevailed.



NEWS IN BRIEF



FRANCE

UCLY- CRÉATION D'UNE MAISON DE LA RECHERCHE ET DE L'ENTREPRISE

Lieu original dans l'Université Catholique de Lyon, il se donne pour objectifs de faire vivre la confluence des disciplines, de favoriser la rencontre des membres de l'Unité de Recherche CONFLUENCE : Sciences et Humanités (EA1598) et de valoriser la recherche en faisant l'interface avec le monde de l'entreprise.

Des espaces de travail, de réunion et de convivialité permettront les interactions et les échanges entre les enseignants-chercheurs, les doctorants et l'équipe d'appui à la recherche. Les séminaires des pôles de recherche pourront y prendre place. Les chercheurs invités y seront accueillis. Les productions des membres de l'UR y seront accessibles.

Cette maison réunira les services administratifs et techniques permettant de répondre aux attentes des doctorants comme des enseignants-chercheurs.

La valorisation de la recherche sera également au cœur de ce projet conçu en lien avec le monde de l'entreprise et des organisations.



ITALY

REMEMBERING JULIUS NYERERE

On 21 November 2023, the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Pontifical Gregorian University organised an international colloquium on 'Mwalimu' Julius Kambarage Nyerere, philosopher and first president of Tanzania. A figure much revered in Africa, Nyerere is relatively little known on other continents, despite being declared a 'Servant of God' by Pope Benedict XVI.

Born in Tanganyika to a king of the Zanki people, Prince Nyerere was also known by the Swahili name 'Mwalimu', which means 'teacher', because of the profession he had before entering politics. Nyerere fought for human-centred development, democratised education and health care, and maintained a deep respect for human rights and peace in a dangerous and unstable part of the world. A committed Catholic, he regularly meditated on the Scriptures, attended daily mass, and even translated liturgical texts into popular Swahili, while actively engaged in interreligious cooperation and vigorously struggling for a more socially relevant Church.

ITALY

EXPLORING THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF POSTURE & MOTION

Pontifical Biblical Institute - University La Sapienza will hold a conference on Motion and Posture in the Bible: Language, Translation, Reception and Effects from May 8th to 10th 2024.

Bodily motion and posture have important anthropological, social and religious significance. They can express real or assumed power relationships and hierarchies, and serve as externalisers of status, gender, age, and physical strength or weakness. They establish and maintain group identity, good relation and sympathy, or, on the contrary, hostility and self-protection. Motion and postures are often associated with respectful attitude toward people representing authority, whereas intentional transgressions of etiquette are signs of animosity and provocation.

This international conference sponsored by the European Commission is intended to study how Ancient Near Eastern languages, especially the Biblical languages, express motion such as rising, running, falling, and so on, and posture such as standing, sitting, prostrating, and so on, and their relevance for the understanding of the Bible, its reception and effects, in particular in Jewish and Christian exegesis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PORTUGAL

UCP REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Refugee Scholarship Programme, promoted by Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP), has been recognised as best practice by the UN at the Global Refugee Forum organised by the UN Refugee Agency, in Geneva, last December. The Programme aims to allow refugee students to pursue or resume their university education and to promote the inclusion and integration of refugees.

Since 2017, UCP has been welcoming students in humanitarian emergency situations, first from Syria and Afghanistan, and more recently from Ukraine. In times of emergency, studying may be considered a privilege, but it is important to think ahead and understand the hugely positive

impact of education in students' lives as well as in societies, both the welcoming society and the country of origin.

UCP intends to keep the project focused on each student's needs and challenges while strengthening the university's commitment to diversity and social responsibility.

[More information here.](#)



LEBANON

PROMOUVOIR LA RESPONSABILITÉ SOCIALE AU LIBAN

Au-delà de sa vocation à dispenser un enseignement de qualité, l'Université Sainte Famille – Batroun-Liban s'engage fermement

à inculquer aux jeunes Libanais les valeurs essentielles de la citoyenneté et à promouvoir la responsabilité sociale.

Cette détermination s'est concrétisée lors de la célébration de la journée de la Blouse Blanche, le 7 novembre 2023. Cet événement, dédié à l'hommage envers tous les acteurs évoluant dans le domaine de la santé, a réuni les étudiants de première année de la Faculté de Santé. Cette

cérémonie a marqué leur entrée dans le monde de la profession en leur souhaitant une trajectoire couronnée de succès.

De son côté, la Faculté de Gestion, en partenariat avec Rotaract Batroun, a lancé une initiative de nettoyage de plage le 27 octobre 2023. Cette action a mobilisé les étudiants de première année de la Faculté de Gestion, démontrant ainsi leur engagement envers l'environnement et leur volonté de contribuer à la préservation des espaces naturels.



SAVE THE DATE

FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SEVILLE – JUNE 5TH TO 7TH 2024

Universidad Loyola de Andalucía



Wednesday 5 June

• **Public lecture**

“What is the future of Catholic Universities in an AI age?”

- **Dr. Isabel CAPELOA GIL, IFCU President and Rector of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa**



- **H. E. Cardinal José TOLENTINO DE MENDONÇA, Prefect of the Dicastery for Culture and Education (Holy See)**

Thursday 6 June

• **Working session:**

“Artificial Intelligence: The end of education or the beginning of a new era”

With:

- **Pr Mathieu GUILLERMIN** – UCLy – Lyon
- **Pr Javier NO**, ViceRector for Learning and Internationalization – ULA – Seville
- **Pr Fr. Alberto CARRARA**, Doctor in Philosophy from the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum

- **Meeting between the participants** in order to explore possible networks.

- **President’s dinner**

Friday 7 June

- **General Assembly** – News from IFCU

NEWS IN BRIEF

GEORGIA

SULKHAN-SABA ORBELIANI UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES GUIDING SPIRIT



The 365th anniversary of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani, a famous Georgian writer, diplomat, public figure and Catholic monk was celebrated at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University in November, 2023. Inspired by his spirit, Sabauni, which bears his name, continues on the path Sulkhan-Saba started to return Georgia to the European family. Several events were held in the University under the campaign of #Saba365. These included two international conferences, public lectures, and book fairs.

The contribution of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani to Georgia is both immeasurable and diverse. His work, intricately woven with the evolution of literature, was fundamentally directed towards the advancement of scientific domains. Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani was the first Georgian to pay a diplomatic visit to Europe when he travelled to France and Italy and tried to establish diplomatic relations with European countries. The date of his birth, 4th November, is celebrated as Diplomacy Day in Georgia.

ITALY

TRAINING THE TRAINERS TO GUIDE YOUNG PEOPLE ON SEXUALITY

Salesian Pontifical University is organising an international conference from March 1st to 3rd 2024 on "Young people and sexuality: challenges, criteria and education". This conference constitutes the completion of a process of interdisciplinary studies carried out within the university over the last two years. It's also a starting point for a new proposal for the training of educators in order to guide young people in such a vital area of their lives.

Among the topics covered will be: cultural changes in the area of sexuality and the magisterium of the Church; the sense of sexual difference, gender identity and sexual orientation; young people and sexuality through media; young people and sexuality in Western, African and Asian cultures; protection of minors; aesthetics of the body and construction of identity; the Church and the accompaniment of LGBT people; and educational guidelines for a pastoral ministry that educates to love. giovaniessessualita.unisal.it

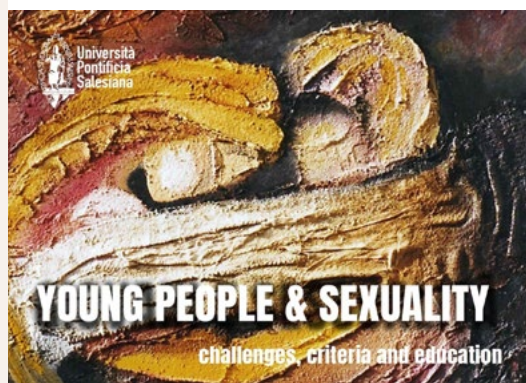
UKRAINE

DEEPENING SOCIETAL RESILIENCE

In response to the urgent need for a socially responsive approach during wartime, the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) has notably intensified its commitment to societal resilience. This effort, rooted in the principle of subsidiarity, is a collaborative venture involving UCU and five other Ukrainian higher education institutions, forming the Alliance of Ukrainian Universities (AUU).

Furthermore, UCU, in partnership with two AUU members and institutions like KU Leuven, Università LUMSA, and Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, is actively participating in the ServU project under the Erasmus+ program. This initiative aims to strengthen the bond between Ukrainian universities and local communities, emphasizing Ukraine's reconstruction. Central to this is the implementation of service-learning education, designed to immerse students in community-based projects, thereby fostering active citizenship.

To this end, UCU has introduced a compulsory course on Service and Volunteering for all BA students, promoting community service and active citizenship. This course offers first-year students a choice of 32 service placements, enabling them to align their community service with personal interests and contribute meaningfully to societal development.



NEWS IN BRIEF

FRANCE

EMERGING WORLDS CHAIR CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR'S WORK

The First French Research Chair in Emerging Worlds, at Université Catholique de Lille (France) has just celebrated its first anniversary. Hosted by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Université Catholique de Lille (FLSH), the research chair aims at contributing to reflections and debates on international relations, socio-cultural and environmental issues, and current geopolitical questions, in particular those of security and conflict. Twelve researchers from the FLSH with specific and complementary expertise in relation to areas such as Africa, Asia, South America and the Post-Soviet world will focus on the socio-economic and geopolitical development trajectories of emerging countries from French, European and global perspectives. The overall aim is to help governments, citizens and businesses to better understand current trends.

flsh.fr/recherche/la-chaire-de-recherche-en-mondes-emergents-axe-3/

SPAIN

NEW GRAND CHANCELLOR FOR SAN DAMASO



On June 12th, 2023, Pope Francis appointed Mons José Cobo new archbishop of the archdiocese of Madrid. As a result of this appointment, he also becomes the new Grand Chancellor of Universidad Eclesiástica San Dámaso.

The university has recently increased its participation in the Erasmus+ Program by a significant degree. The objective is to widen the opportunities for students to have an international experience at a language, cultural, human, and social level. As a result, the institution has broadened its European strategic agreements confirming its commitment to internationalisation.

Participants have expressed a very high degree of satisfaction with the programme. Some of their testimonies can be viewed here:

youtube.com/watch?v=8j1AbGHg3JY.



ITALY

UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT: TRADITION & INNOVATION

LUMSA University held a meeting on University Management: Tradition and Innovation in Rome on December 4th, 2023. The meeting provided an opportunity for an all-round reflection on university management and for a remembrance of Dr Giannina Di Marco, who was Director-General of LUMSA University for twenty-six years, from 1996 until her death in 2022.

Dr Giampaolo Di Giorgio, current Director-General of LUMSA University, moderated the discussion, which featured contributions from Alberto Scuttari, President of CODAU and Director-General (University of Padua), Angelo Mari, President of the Evaluation Board and Professor of Planning and Administrative Management (LUMSA University), Mauro Moretti, President of the International Commission for the History of Universities and Professor of Contemporary History (University for Foreigners of Siena), Andrea Rossi, Chief Executive Officer and Director General of the University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome and representative of non-state universities in the CODAU Council, and Gianni Letta, Former Undersecretary of State at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic.

For more information go to: [please read here](#).