

European Federation of Catholic Universities
Fédération des Universités Catholiques Européennes
Federación de Universidades Católicas de Europa

FUCE

In Brief | En Bref En Resumen

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REFLECTING ON LILLE & LOOKING TOWARDS SEVILLE

by Fr Michael Mullaney, President FUCE

At the crossroads of Europe, the Université Catholique de Lille was a uniquely ideal location for the FUCE General Assembly last May to address the theme of Catholic Universities in the European Union.

The Université Catholique de Lille has distinguished itself in the fields of higher education, research and health, and in its commitment to mutual care as a central value. Like many Catholic Universities in Europe, it exemplifies a commitment to keeping its Catholic identity alive in an increasingly secular and consumerist culture prioritising public service over profit.

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As at Lille, many students come to Catholic universities with a thirst for an education that not only provides a pathway and skills for a good career, but also in search of an education characterised by hope and solidarity. A university experience that provides the scaffolding that fosters reflective and critically engaged staff and students who seek to unite learning and conscience. An education that faces-up to the critical climate and social justice crises that confront us, but also the impact of new scientific and technological developments on individuals and human society. Catholic universities have the benefit of being able to draw its ethical, spiritual and religious reservoir to evaluate the achievements of science and technology in the perspective of the totality of the human person.

Call it a new humanism, a European Humanism, which can 'help give birth to a new culture' as Archbishop Treanor, the new European Union Nuncio, echoing Pope Francis' words in the Global Compact for Education, in his opening address in Lille. For this reason, Catholic education is more than providing technical expertise alone. Rather, it should encourage the more complex process of assisting each staff member and student to grow in their totality.

One of the most dramatic developments in recent years is transformative arrival of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Many voices, including artificial intelligence founders, experts, researchers and backers have called for a pause on the development of 'giant AIs' until the capabilities and dangers of AI can be studied and mitigated. More recently, Pope Francis has called for a more global and deeper reflection on the potential good and dangers raised by the exponential advances in AI and its impact on society, politics, economy, education, and culture.

The next General Assembly that will take place at the **Universidad Loyola in Seville (6-8 June 2024)** will respond to this call to reflect on the growing impact of AI on almost every area of life. While the development of AI has the potential to contribute in a positive way to the future of humanity and education, our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a concomitant development in human responsibility, values and conscience. One notable contribution in this area is the recent publication of Ethics in the Age of Disruptive Technologies: An Operational Roadmap by the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University and the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

In addition to reflecting on what is the future of Catholic Universities in an AI age, our attention must also turn to the bigger questions about transparency, control, accountability, regulation and ethics of AI. The nefarious uses of AI are almost too



dreadful to contemplate: the manipulation of truth and dissemination of misinformation undermining the democratic process and institutions; the tracking of people's online activity and loss of privacy; the sinister use of algorithms that measure people only by their personal data; and its use by military in warfare. Our true goal must be for the growth of scientific and technological innovation to be accompanied by greater equality and social inclusion. These questions cannot be ignored.

For this reason, I encourage you to put the next General Assembly which will take place in one of Spain's youngest and most dynamic universities, Universidad Loyola in Seville in your diary and to participate in this critical discussion on the growing impact of AI on our personal and professional lives, on our universities and our world.

The education world is just waking up to the scale of this new technology and still struggle with how to respond to its educational and ethical impact. Like many developments in the past, it is not going away. Educators will have to explore how to harness its potential to be an innovative tool in an academic setting to improve students' learning skills and goals.

If you have arrived at this point, the disconcerting question facing many educators is this: who or what wrote this piece, Michael Mullaney or ChatGPT?

Fr Michael Mullaney
President of FUCE



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PREPARING FOR RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

The second *Practicing Resilience – Preparing for Recovery* summer school took place in Šibenik, Croatia, from June 30 until July 9, 2023. The school was organised by the Catholic University of Croatia in partnership with the Nanovic Institute of the University of Notre Dame from the United States, the Ukrainian Catholic University from Ukraine, and the Catholic Universities Partnership.

The summer school brought together professors and renowned lecturers from numerous Catholic

universities and continued the process of empowering students and preparing them for resilience and recovery with 40 attendees from different Catholic universities around the world of which 20 were from Ukraine.

The main themes of the summer school were related to resilience and post-war recovery, which can encourage a spirit of community. The program had an emphasis on the educational aspect, but also included spiritual, social, cultural, and sports activities, due to its holistic approach.

NEWS IN BRIEF



GERMANY

BETHLEHEM SERVICE LEARNING CONFERENCE

Catholic universities shared their experiences on successful service learning formats at an international conference in Bethlehem on May 25th and 26th last. The five-day conference was organised by the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU), which coordinates activities for the regional hub for Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East within the Uniservitate project.

Uniservitate's goal is to systematically and broadly anchor service learning offers at universities. In university teaching, service learning

links academic studies with a commitment to the common good. Lecturers and students cooperate with partners from the social, cultural, sports, ecological or educational sectors in their region and contribute their professional knowledge and expertise to joint projects.

The Uniservitate Network, funded by the Porticus Foundation, aims to deepen its work in the region over the next four years and further expand collaborations at research level. It is planning to implement so-called "research grants" for service learning-related projects.



LEBANON

USJ LAUNCHES LEBANON ONE HEALTH

Every year, the vice-rectorate for research at Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) organises the Research Days event for the university. The event titled "Research at the Service of Society in Crisis-Hit Lebanon" was held on June 22nd and 23rd last.

The gathering brought together about 70 speakers and 150 researchers, professors, doctors, and PhD candidates and instructors to discuss and propose innovative clinical and translational research solutions for the industry, given the ever-changing socio-economic landscape.

Additionally, the event marked the launch of "USJ Lebanon One Health: One Sustainable Health for All", a collaborative approach that aims to enhance human well-being through cooperation between different societal sectors.

The themes chosen align with global efforts towards achieving sustainable development objectives and overall global health. Artificial intelligence and its educational and ethical impact was also placed at the heart of our discussion. After the second day, awards were presented to the presenters of the best research posters.

NEW FACES

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



Higinio Marín Pedreno
Rector of the Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera, Valencia

The Board of Trustees of the Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera has named Dr Higinio Marín as Rector for the next four years. Dr Marín has been Senior Lecturer in Philosophical Anthropology at the university since 2006. Earlier in his career, he lectured at the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Medicine of the Universidad de Navarra, the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences at the Universidad Pública de Navarra, and the Faculty of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia. He has also held a number of senior management roles including vice-rector, being responsible at various times for academic affairs, academic staff, research, and strategic planning.

Dr Marín has over 50 academic publications, including 10 monographs as sole author, and has been a researcher at the Instituto de Ciencias para la Familia and the Instituto Empresa y Humanismo, both of which form part of the Universidad de Navarra. He has also taught at the Instituto Pontificio Juan Pablo II (Valencia), at the Instituto de Filosofía Edith Stein (Granada), and he has been a visiting lecturer at Universidad de Piura (Peru). He is a member of various editorial committees for academic publications in philosophy and the human and social sciences.



Dr Taras Dobko, PhD
Rector of Ukrainian Catholic University

The Ukrainian Catholic University elected Taras Dobko, PhD, as its new rector during a Senate meeting on June 24th last. During the rector elections, Dr Dobko introduced his visionary program called "The University that Serves." He firmly believes that amidst the backdrop of Ukraine facing a full scale war, UCU has a critical role to play in embodying the nation's finest attributes. As the newly elected rector, Dr Dobko highlighted three key areas where the UCU community must lead: healing the wounds of war and driving Ukraine's development, advocating the Ukrainian agenda globally, and offering a spiritual Christian perspective to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The new UCU-2030 strategy, along with Rector Taras Dobko's program, will be designed to address contemporary challenges and contribute to Ukraine's restoration while nurturing principled leaders.

Despite the ongoing war, UCU remains committed to nurturing a new generation of leaders for a revitalised Ukraine. The university celebrated its graduation ceremonies on July 1st and 2nd, with over 500 successful young graduates. In the face of the war's challenges, including loss of lives and brain drain, these graduates symbolise hope and a strong force for Ukraine's reconstruction. UCU steadfastly continues its mission, unwavering in its dedication to serve and uplift the nation.



MEMBER PROFILE

UNIVERSITÉ DE NAMUR



In UNamur is one of Belgium's twelve universities, located in the heart of the historic centre of Namur, the capital of Wallonia. With a population of over 110,000, Namur offers a pleasant living environment at the confluence of the Meuse and Sambre rivers, dominated by a vast citadel remodelled in the 17th century by the famous architect Vauban. UNamur benefits from all the facilities in terms of housing, shops, leisure activities and public transport. It plays an active role in the life, development and influence of the city of Namur. Professor Annick Castiaux is rector of UNamur for a four-year term (2021-2025).

Three missions

Founded in 1831, the University of Namur's mission is to train students and researchers to be responsible players in society. It encourages them to get involved in extra-academic projects with a social, civic and humanist aim, so that they can contribute to the development of a democratic, pluralist and caring society.

In its research mission, the University of Namur favours subjects that combine excellence and concern for the long term. It pays particular attention to interdisciplinarity and takes into account the human and social challenges of science and technology.

The university also has a mission to serve society. The University of Namur works actively with local, regional, national and international players to contribute to the cultural, social, political and economic development of its region.

It puts its knowledge and expertise in its seven faculties and 11 institutes at the disposal of the general public in order to provide answers to major societal challenges, particularly inequalities.

Key figures

UNamur has **7,323 students** of **75 different nationalities** (2022 figures). It also has **1,319 members of staff**, including **332 academics**, **573 scientists** and **465 administrative, technical and management staff** (2022 figures).

UNamur is made up of: 7 Faculties, 1 inter-faculty department, 11 Research Institutes, 9 Technology Platforms.

Values

The University of Namur places people at the heart of its values, inherited from the Jesuit tradition: openness, excellence, freedom, and sustainability. It affirms its desire to be open to the world in its mission to create and transmit knowledge. It is also open to all categories of people, whatever their age, role, origin, or status.

In each of its missions, the University of Namur aims for excellence in a resolutely human approach that integrates proximity, solidarity, and respect. It pays particular attention to the personal development of each and every one of its students, researchers, lecturers and staff.

The University is a responsible player in the construction of an environmentally, socially and socially sustainable society. Within the university community, everyone is committed to building a fairer, more caring, and more sustainable society.

The University defends the freedom of opinion of its members. This is based on the autonomy and responsibility of individuals. It encourages collective intelligence, the creation of knowledge and innovation.

Areas of expertise

Researchers at the University of Namur work on inter- and trans-disciplinary projects involving applied and fundamental research. Their expertise covers a wide range of fields, including life sciences and health, digital and society, heritage, culture and society, economic and social vulnerabilities, materials, energy and the environment.

International influence

UNamur has more than 250 agreements with prestigious foreign universities and faculties on five continents. It is also a member of several international associations:

- **European Alliance UniversEH**
- **Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)**
- **European University Association (AEU/EUA)**
- **International Association of Jesuit Universities**
- **Kircher Network**
- **International Association of Jesuit Business Schools**
- **Federation of European Catholic Universities (FUCE)**
- **International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU)**
- **UNESCO PEACE Programme (Palestinian European American Cooperation in Education)**
- **OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE)**





By 2022, UNamur will have **22% foreign researchers, 10% foreign professors and 12% foreign students**. It also has numerous research collaborations on every continent.

The University of Namur offers a number of internationally recognised courses taught in English: Masters in Economics (joint degree with UCLouvain), Specialised Masters in International and Development Economics, Masters in Molecular Microbiology, Masters in Biomedical Sciences, Master in Chemistry.

The University of Namur also participates in the following programmes: Erasmus Mundus European Masters in Translational Cosmetic and Dermatological Sciences (EMOTION), Masters in CyberSecurity (co-diploma with ULB).

For more information about UNamur: unamur.be

medical laboratory technology programme is being modified to meet the requirements of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS); and the Nursing programme is pursuing accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

While the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS) has yet to receive any official faculty or programmatic accreditation, its intra-faculty activity is flourishing, with frequent forums, events, seminars, and conferences about the rule of law, legal and judicial reform, human rights, international relations, and political areas of interest. The faculty's professors and instructors additionally coordinate several societies and centres of research based at the FLPS, including the Lebanese Research Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies (LERC), Publish What You Pay NDU Student Society, and the FLPS Gender, Communications and Global Mobility (GCGM) Studies Unit.

Overall, NDU's institutional, faculty, and programmatic accreditation has a rich past, present, and future, demonstrating a clear commitment to the development of educational curricula that always keep pace with the standards set by international accreditation bodies, never failing or falling behind.

SAVE THE DATE 

FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

SEVILLE 5 – 7 JUNE 2024

Universidad Loyola, Seville



BELGIUM

REFLECTING ON THE VATICAN II LEGACY

The Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of KU Leuven is organising an international conference on “60 years Vatican II: The End of the Western Church?” from November 8th to 11th next. The Second Vatican Council may have been held in Western Europe and may in the end still present a Eurocentric perspective, but it was nevertheless the first council with a global presence and scope.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary, will explore this ‘global’ perspective from a historical

and systematic-theological angle. The topic will be addressed by plenary speakers from every continent. The keynote lecture will be delivered by Prof Dr Ormond Rush of Australian Catholic University who is a participant in the upcoming Synod on the topic of ‘Synodality for a World Church: A New Phase in the Reception of Vatican II’. More information and a registration form (by October 16): theo.kuleuven.be/en/lest/



FUCE SUMMER SCHOOL 'EUROPEAN HUMANISM IN THE MAKING' IN PALERMO

The fourth edition of the FUCE summer school took place from 3 to 7 July 2023 in Palermo. The city with its rich cultural heritage at the crossroads of Norman, Byzantine and Arab influences formed the ideal backdrop for a joint reflection on a renewed humanist programme for Europe. Its multicultural richness and unique geographical situation invite one to reimagine a more inclusive European society open to external influences.

The 25 participating students from various parts of Europe (Ukraine, Georgia, Slovakia, Croatia, Portugal, Spain, Italy, France, Ireland, Belgium and Lebanon) were challenged to bring in their personal perspectives and interdisciplinary knowledge (from law, political science and

international relations, history, literature, theology, psychology, sociology, economics and management and nursing) through interactive classes, group work and extracurricular activities such as public lectures and excursions. The overarching theme of this edition was double. It focused on the issue of migration and the way nations try to manage this in relation to non-governmental organisations – a pertinent concern for southern Europe and particularly Sicily which experienced the Lampedusa refugee crisis.

It also investigated the issue of memory politics in Eastern Europe as an explanation for diverging stances in the EU on the role of the nation state and contemporary political controversies. For the East 1989 was a turning point with the emancipation from the USSR which spurred nationalist reactions, while in the West the liberation from fascism after WWII has instilled a fear of nationalist tendencies.

Two guest professors from the LUMSA university in Palermo, Umberto Di Maggio and Marco Evola, shared their insights on the first topic and Peter Verovsek, keynote speaker for the opening lecture, presented the second topic.



The students were given an assignment to incorporate their ideas about these issues in a personal narrative which they shared in groups and from which one was chosen to be read to the class on the last day. This was followed by presentations by each of the five groups of the outcome of their discussions throughout the week on specific questions related to the course subjects of European identity in history, literature and institution building, enlightenment in European and Islamic science, social humanism, governance and civic engagement.

These activities were facilitated by PHD students from the LUMSA university, who took the floor at the end of the week to explain to the students what their research was about and how it contributes to a better understanding of specific European challenges.

This summer school again offered an enriching experience for students. Some of them voiced their hopes and concerns for Europe in a public panel debate 'MyEurope'. The participants' travelogues (an online portfolio in which they note down their own thoughts on each part of the course), form a written testimony of their journey through the 'routes and roots' of a new 'Europe in the making' of which they themselves are the protagonists.

To convey it in their own words, the summer school gave the participants the opportunity to:

"...cover a lot of facets of Europe, from socio-economical to political, with a specific focus on culture and history and explore the different narratives of which Europe is a product."

"...think in a different way about Europe and its identity and about my identity as a European citizen."

"...think about how we can improve even further in the future, bringing to life what we would like to do with Europe, questions that I don't necessarily ask myself in my day-to-day life and which reinforce the feeling of belonging."

"...talk about the future of Europe and what we as individuals, society and government should do for it."

"...bring us students in touch with a very diverse international group, providing a lot of different perspectives on today's issues."

"...have a cultural exchange and create a group narrative."

"...open my mind to other cultures and to the richness of understanding different identities, to the beauty of being part of a multicultural whole."

"...give me the confidence to talk in public and stand up for myself and become more confident on my opinions."

"...ask myself more existential questions about what life means to me, my value system and so on, questions that are always interesting for development and fulfilment."

"The importance of different co-existing narratives in Europe, the dialogue with different cultures and perspectives, the interdisciplinary approach to Europe, has broadened my vision. I hope this has enriched my knowledge in a way that it will also influence my further academic career."

"The FUCE Summer School provided a lot of relevant insights on European values and culture, touching upon a contemporary debate in an interdisciplinary way that isn't done at university."

NEWS IN BRIEF



LEBANON NDU EXCELLENCE RECOGNISED

In a mark of its academic excellence, Notre Dame University – Louaize (NDU), Lebanon, has been granted re-accreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) for a full cycle of ten years. NDU has also received initial accreditation of its business programmes by AACSB, re-accreditation of its engineering programs by ABET, advertising and marketing by IAA, while the architecture programme has been deemed eligible for accreditation by NAAB.

NDU is dedicated to providing high quality education, enriching student experiences and holds strong to its standards of inclusion and diversity. An example of such commitment to excellence and lifelong learning is NDU's IDEAL program which caters to students with learning difficulties. The first cohort of the IDEAL program graduated during the 33rd Commencement Ceremony on **June 23, 2023**. NDU continuously strives at promoting values of scholarship, integrity, faith, and freedom among others. ndu.edu.lb/home



GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AT SABAUNI

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University hosted International Week in June with professors from Poland, Spain, Croatia, Czech Republic and Finland participating. Two annual international conferences were held within the International Week: the 6th international symposia "Catholic Heritage in Georgia" and the 6th International conference on "Law and Global Security".

Delegates also participated in several other

events including round table meetings, public lectures, workshops, and so on.

The next international week dedicated to international conferences will be held on 13-17 November, where two international conferences are planned: the 6th International conference on Development studies and the 1st international conference on "Societies in Transition".

sabauni.edu.ge

ITALY

BUSY CONFERENCE SEASON AT PONTIFICAL LATERAN UNIVERSITY

A number of important academic conferences have been held at the Pontifical Lateran University in recent months. In May, conferences were held on "Peace among the peoples... at 60 years of Pacem in Terris", Encyclical Letter by Pope St John XXIII, and "Political, Economic, Environmental and Security Impacts of the War on Ukraine: What Prospects for Peace". In June, important conferences were held on "Sustainability and African Values" and "Peace and citizenship: a possible dialogue in Global Compact Education". These conferences show how universities can serve as devices for peace, and how dialogue in the global compact on education could enhance new economic education.

NEWS IN BRIEF



ESPAÑA

INSTITUTOS DE DERECHOS HUMANOS SE REÚNEN EN LA UNIVERSIDAD DE DEUSTO

La Universidad de Deusto acogió un Congreso Internacional del 7 al 9 de septiembre, en el marco de la Asociación de Institutos de Derechos Humanos (AHRI), sobre el papel de quienes se dedican a la defensa de los derechos humanos, una de las actividades más peligrosas en determinados contextos.

Coincidiendo con la conmemoración en 2023 del 25 aniversario de la Declaración sobre Defensores de Derechos Humanos, el encuentro ofreció un espacio único en el que el mundo académico, líderes institucionales y, sobre todo, personas que trabajan en la defensa de los derechos humanos, pudieron reunirse para discutir e intercambiar experiencias y buenas prácticas que contribuyan a facilitar la defensa de todos los derechos humanos en un contexto cada vez más incierto.

BELGIUM

UCLouvain PARTNER APPRECIATION DAY

A Partner Appreciation Day was held at the UCLouvain Saint-Louis – Bruxelles campus on September 25th. The event coincided with the 2023 EAIE Annual Conference and Exhibition which was held in Rotterdam from September 26th to September 29th, just a one-hour train ride from Brussels. Partners attending EAIE were afforded the opportunity to visit the UCLouvain campus to get to know its team and facilities.



CÉLÉBRER LA NAISSANCE D'UNE NOUVELLE FACULTÉ

Une nouvelle page de l'histoire de l'UNamur s'ouvre dès la rentrée académique 2023-2024 avec la naissance de la Faculté des sciences de l'Éducation et de la Formation (FaSEF). Elle hébergera les programmes relatifs à la Réforme de la Formation Initiale des Enseignants (RFIE) et remplira des missions de recherche et de service à la société.

La FaSEF réunit chercheurs, accompagnateurs, formateurs, psychopédagogues, didacticiens et technopédagogues pour promouvoir la formation et l'accompagnement pédagogique ainsi que la recherche en sciences de l'éducation.

Réputée pour l'attention qu'elle accorde à ses étudiants et pour la qualité des pédagogies mises en œuvre dans ses enseignements, l'Université de Namur s'est investie depuis plus de 35 ans dans la formation initiale et continue des enseignants ainsi que dans la pédagogie propre à l'enseignement supérieur, notamment au travers des activités du département Éducation et Technologie (DET) et grâce aux recherches effectuées au sein de l'Institut IRDEna.

unamur.be/fasef



English

LOOKING BACK ON LILLE

by Thérèse Lebrun, Deputy President-Rector and Mélodie Bernal, Research Engineer, General Development and Strategy Department, Catholic University of Lille.

“We live in new times, with new difficulties: war in Ukraine, pandemic, inflation, feeling insecure about the future. It is important for institutions to combine interest and the common good with local realities.”

**Archbishop Noël TREANOR,
Apostolic Nuncio to the EU**

The 2023 edition of the FUCE General Assembly took place in the context of the challenges of the current geopolitical situation in Europe and the role of Catholic Universities in addressing it. The General Assembly brought together nearly 90 people from 40 universities in 15 different countries, along with representatives of IFCU and COMECE.

Marked by the desire to affirm the role of Catholic Universities in international cooperation and peace,

Eastern Europe was represented through Ukraine, Albania, Georgia, Poland and Hungary.

In addition, the work and presence of students was appreciated and valued. They brought their experiences of ERASMUS exchanges and the FUCE scholarship programme to help fuel the numerous exchanges and meetings in the round tables of the assembly.

It was also an opportunity to salute the work undertaken by LUMSA on the “European Humanism in the Making” course, which the Catholic University of Lille has the honour of taking on for the future.

Together, we believe in the strong humanist values that founded the Europe of yesterday will be those that build the Europe of today and tomorrow. These values lead us beyond the knowledge and skills given to our students, to reflect on their professional and intellectual training in the formation of people and mankind.

That’s why we look forward to seeing you in 2024, where the Catholic University of Lille will be delighted to host the summer school on Europe’s Christian roots.



en français

RETOUR SUR L'AG DE LA FUCE À LILLE

**Thérèse Lebrun, Président-Recteur délégué et
Mélodie Bernal, Ingénieure d'études, Direction
Générale Développement et Stratégie,
Université Catholique de Lille**

“Nous vivons des temps nouveaux, avec de nouvelles difficultés : guerre en Ukraine, pandémie, inflation, sentiment d'insécurité vis-à-vis du futur. Il est important pour les institutions de conjuguer l'intérêt et le bien commun avec les réalités locales ”

**Mgr Noël TREANOR,
Nonce apostolique auprès de l'UE**

Dans le contexte géopolitique actuel de l'Europe, c'est autour des challenges et des perspectives de celle-ci et du rôle des Universités Catholiques dans ce cadre, que l'édition 2023 de l'Assemblée Générale de la FUCE s'est construite. Elle a réuni près de 90 personnes issues de 40 universités, d'une quinzaine de pays différents, outre la présence de la FIUC et de la COMECE.

Marquée par la volonté d'affirmer le rôle des Universités Catholiques dans la coopération et la paix internationales, l'Europe de l'Est était également

présente à travers, notamment, l'Ukraine, l'Albanie et la Géorgie, mais aussi la Pologne et la Hongrie.

De plus, le travail et la présence des étudiants ont été appréciés et valorisés, dans le cadre des expériences de vie étudiante au travers des échanges ERASMUS, ainsi que du programme des bourses de la FUCE, et alimentés par de nombreux échanges et rencontres dans les tables-rondes de l'assemblée.

Ce fut également l'occasion de saluer le travail engagé par la LUMSA sur le parcours “European Humanism in the Making”, dont l'Université Catholique de Lille a l'honneur d'hériter dans sa continuité et son développement.

Ensemble, nous croyons aux valeurs humanistes fortes qui ont fondé l'Europe d'hier et qui construiront l'Europe d'aujourd'hui et de demain. Celles-ci nous amènent, au delà des connaissances et compétences données à nos étudiants, à réfléchir à la formation professionnelle et intellectuelle de ceux-ci (former l'Homme et tout l'Homme...).



C'est pour cela que nous vous donnons rendez-vous en 2024, où l'Université Catholique de Lille sera ravie d'accueillir l'école d'été sur les racines chrétiennes de l'Europe.





NEWS IN BRIEF

POLAND

HESCHEL CENTER COMMENCES WORK AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN

The Abraham J Heschel Centre for Catholic-Jewish Relations - a new scientific, educational, and cultural unit to deepen Catholic-Jewish relations internationally - began its activities at the **Catholic University of Lublin** in October 2022. Scientific research, publishing and student exchanges along with international symposia, conferences, debates, and cultural events are among the institution's main activities.

The opening ceremony was attended by many prominent guests, among them the daughter of the Centre's patron, Professor Susannah Heschel, a researcher at Dartmouth College in the US, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, and the President of the Polish Bishops' Conference Archbishop Stanislaw Gądecki.

In his address, Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin Rev Prof Miroslaw Kalinowski said: "The pillars on which the Centre's activities are based can be summed up in a motto: Common Bible - Common Past - Common Future."

Israeli Ambassador to Poland Yacov Livne wrote in a special letter for the occasion: "Focusing on research, the Centre will open up to questions related to Jewish history, culture and legacy as well as to Polish-Jewish relations over the centuries, including the present."



SPAIN

NEW PRESIDENT FOR EUA

Josep M Garrell, Rector of Ramon Llull University (2012-2022), was elected as the new president of the European University Association (EUA) in April and will lead the new Board for the next four years.

Garrell was nominated by CRUE, the Spanish Rectors' Conference, and will succeed **Michael Murphy**, former President of University College Cork.

Garrell ran for election along with the British candidate, Janet Beer (University of Liverpool), and the Serbian candidate, Ivanka Popović (University of Belgrade), and obtained over 70% of the votes.

Five other members of the Board were also elected: V Blondel (University of Louvain), M Palys (University of Warsaw), A Söderbergh Widding (Stockholm University), M Tira (University of Brescia) and W van de Donk (Tilburg University). It is noteworthy that three out of the six newly elected board members are from FUCE Universities (Ramon Llull University, University of Louvain and Tilburg University).

BELGIUM

UNA EUROPA SUMMER SCHOOL AT KUL

KU Leuven hosted the 2nd Una Europa Summer School on One Health from 24 July to 2 August 2023. The Summer School brought together students, doctoral researchers and staff from across the Una Europa Alliance and beyond to explore interdisciplinary One Health issues and work towards building solutions together. One Health is an integrated approach to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment.

research.kuleuven.be/en/onehealth

Top-level experts from across the Una Europa alliance partners contributed to a unique interdisciplinary programme on the multiple facets of the One Health concept. For the first time, the Summer School was organised as an Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme with two dedicated tracks, addressing Bachelor's and Master's students and PhD candidates respectively.

NEWS IN BRIEF



FRANCE

PRISE EN CHARGE MULTIDISCIPLINAIRE EN ONCOLOGIE SÉMINAIRE

L'Université Sainte-Famille (USF) a une fois de plus démontré son engagement en faveur de la recherche médicale. Le 2 juin 2023, un séminaire intitulé Prise en charge multidisciplinaire en oncologie s'est tenu dans le prestigieux amphithéâtre Hoayek de l'université.

La journée a débuté avec l'hymne national libanais, suivi d'un mot d'accueil prononcé par la Sœur Dr Marie-Marguerite Kiwan, doyenne de la Faculté de Santé. Dans son discours, elle a présenté une brève histoire de l'université, mettant

en valeur les accomplissements remarquables du personnel et des étudiants dans le domaine de la santé. L'un des invités de marque était le médecin Pierre Anhoury, ancien directeur des relations internationales à l'Institut Curie.

Divers sujets ont été abordés et la journée s'est clôturée sur une note technologique passionnante avec une présentation sur l'intelligence artificielle appliquée à la radiologie.

À la fin, les participants ont eu l'occasion de se retrouver lors d'un pot convivial.

ITALY

NEW DEGREE PROGRAMME FOR THE THIRD SECTOR

The Salesian Pontifical University is launching a new degree programme with the aim of preparing qualified operators and managers to face the challenges related to the recent reform of the Third Sector.

This programme aims to train professional figures who work or will work in the world of voluntary organisations, social promotion associations, foundations, second-level networks and Third

Sector entrepreneurial entities, such as social enterprises and social cooperatives.

Working in the social economy requires, today more than ever, combining skills that are traditionally offered through distinct academic paths, such as ethical-humanistic, economic, legal, business, social planning and others. The novelty of the new degree course in the Third Sector is aimed at developing,

in a single pathway, the required knowledge and skills in the culture of the common good and voluntary work, in administration, management and reporting, in social planning and fund raising, and in the fiscal and financial planning of organisations.

www.unisal.it/page/5720-un-nuovo-corso-di-laurea-per-affrontare-le-sfide-della-riforma-del-terzo-settore



WHAT LIFE IS REALLY LIKE FOR UKRAINE'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

by Jeffrey Wills

The 2023 In my 25 years as a teacher and executive at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), various events have been worthy of international attention, but none like the surreal present.

The country today often seems like the setting of a World War II film with all the usual paradoxes. Cafés are open with music in the air, and spring brings couples holding hands out to the street. But half the flowers people are buying here in Lviv are for the constant funerals at the baroque Church of St Peter and Paul. It has been the military chapel since Austrian times, except of course when the Soviets shuttered it and used it for a book depository. The dozen priests and seminarians there are all graduates or students of UCU and members of what is locally called the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, an eastern-rite church with about five million members and three thousand priests.

The daily funerals are followed by processions to the new military cemetery called the "Field of Mars", covered with hundreds of tightly packed new graves decked with flags. Each wooden cross bears a large vivid photograph of the fallen hero perhaps sent home a month ago from the battle front. These men, often smiling, feel more present than many of the mourners, who pile up the earth on top of the casket for about ten minutes, with plastic wreaths and fresh

flowers as the final layer. The family will come back the next day to put the wooden box around the soil and arrange flowers again, and again.

Out of the hundred or so graduates, students or employees of UCU serving in the armed forces, fourteen are now dead. No one wants the deaths to stop more than those who have lost their family and best friends, but as they say, "If Russia stops fighting, the war ends. If Ukraine stops fighting, Ukraine ends."

The war is everywhere at all ages. I've heard kindergarten lads boasting about Fortress Bachmut and they can list which of Ukraine's neighbouring countries are supporting us and which are against us. More than ever, boys have very realistic toy guns of various sizes. Hurrying out onto the sidewalk, a concerned mother held one hand of her very small son, but he had his substantial toy gun in the other. Why not? Kids see the "big boys" in uniform stationed on the streets with weapons, so they also want to protect their families.

Recently, I was on a trip around eastern Ukraine, visiting our alumni who are either in the army or running the NGOs that provide many basic services now — there are a lot because UCU has the country's only degree programme in non-profit management. In polls, volunteer organisations receive an almost equally high rating as the army.

The now-famous Ukrainian resilience is visible everywhere. During the daytime, Kharkiv is bustling again with a reasonable amount of traffic and there is some rebuilding. But the streets are empty of children. More than half of all Ukrainian children had to leave their homes in the first month of the war, and about half of those are still outside the country. The percentages are much greater in the east.

It is not just the unpredictable shelling of homes that drove parents to take children away, but also the problem of schools which are online because of constant air raids. The children have had only a few months of in-person classes during three years of Covid and then the Russian invasion. So, one of our partner organisations named "Peaceful Sky" runs an after-school program to give kids at least a few hours of activities with other kids, and some much-needed counselling. The afternoon I was there, the kids were drawing with coloured pencils. One happy seven-year-old had drawn flags of Ukraine and Russia in one corner and was writing accompanying sentences about the two nations but his violent verbs were not, shall we say, in the Easter spirit.

This trauma of war and displacement is why President Zelenskyy states that 1.5 million children are at risk of psychological damage. The First Lady has partnered with UCU's psychology team in making this challenge her priority.

But will there even be more Ukrainian children? So many women of child-bearing age have fled as refugees that in 2022 Ukraine had the lowest birth rate of any country in the world, only a quarter of replacement levels.

The youth that remain in Ukraine are growing up fast. In Zaporizhzhya, our UCU team met with one of our graduates, Nazar Krayivskyy. The university community has been the main funder of his organization "Rays of Light" which delivers food and essentials to families living in basements along the front line there. Before the war, his centre ran educational programmes in state orphanages and

helped street children get legal papers. Half of his staff went west for safety, so some of those same youth he helped before are now the ones doing the packing.

The logic of random Russian destruction is to frighten everyone into leaving, to create Ukraine without Ukrainians. To deny the enemy that victory is why UCU has stayed in session throughout the whole war, paying salaries, housing refugees and training leaders for the future.

I came to Ukraine in 1995 to help re-build the Ukrainian Catholic University, which had been closed by the Soviets in the 1940s. For most of our history, this has been the only Catholic university in the immense lands of the former Soviet Union. Initially, we were renting a four-room kindergarten, but now UCU has the most modern campus in the country, and the top students on the national entrance exam.

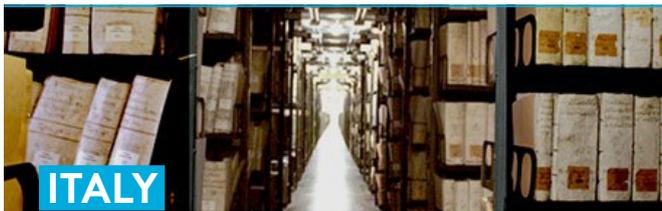
At our recent open house for 17-year-olds planning to enter university this autumn, I met a confident young man with a little cross hanging from the earring on the left side of his half-shaven head. He is interested in journalism and has excellent English, so he could clearly obtain a place for no fees at a state university. But he has his heart set on UCU where the tuition is the princely sum of £2,500. His mother, a war widow with two younger children, tells me she has the money for it. However, the young man feels it is his responsibility and refuses to let her pay any of the family money: if he doesn't qualify for a full scholarship, he will make the sacrifice and go elsewhere. Imagine growing up the son of a war hero. If your father has volunteered and made the ultimate sacrifice, how do you live up to that standard?

And that is a question for all of us at UCU. Our students run volunteer centres and are getting the best "service learning" the world can offer. They work on cybersecurity teams or stop fake news. We train priests for psychological first aid, and overworked physical therapists teach rehabilitation. But somehow, we must all do more.

The truth is that everyone in Ukraine is exhausted. But they are also very, very grateful to the free world for its solidarity and support. We celebrated Easter in April with all the traditional eggs and breads, but Ukraine's long Lent is far from over.

Jeffrey Wills is the former Vice-Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and now a Professor in classical languages. He has a PhD from Harvard.

NEWS IN BRIEF



ITALY

SHEDDING LIGHT ON HISTORICAL CONTROVERSIES

In March 2020, Pope Francis opened millions of documents pertaining to the Pontificate of Pope Pius XII (1939-1958). Some important discoveries have been made and will be shared with the wider public at the international conference taking place on 9-11 October 2023 at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

The New Documents from the Pontificate of Pope Pius XII and their Meaning for Jewish-Christian Relations: A Dialogue between Historians and Theologians conference will focus on how these archives shed light on historical and theological controversies relating to Pope Pius XII and the Vatican during the Holocaust, and on Jewish-Christian relations at multiple levels – from ordinary people to authority figures in Jewish and Catholic milieus, institutions and power structures.

The international conference is organised, by the others, with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington DC, USA) and the Institute for International Research Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Centre (Jerusalem, Israel), and sponsored by the Union of Jewish Communities of Italy, the Vatican Apostolic Archive of the Holy See and the American Jewish Committee.



SPAIN

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

On Monday, June 5th last, Aeneu Universitari Sant Pacia Barcelona rector Dr Armand Puig i Tàrrach, was nominated as the new AVEPRO (Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties) president by the Holy See. Pope Francis chose Dr i Tarrech in this new mission to verify and promote the good qualification of the ecclesiastical universities and faculties.

This appointment represents a new step towards the creation and renewal of an evaluation team to help all the catholic centres in their relationships with their own dioceses and in their services to the theological formation of futures priests and laity.

This change means other challenges for our faculties including increasing our availability internally as well as with broader society.

In that context, we will celebrate our international congress on the Nicea council and its anniversary in February in 2024.

ITALY

SIXTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SERVICE-LEARNING

LUMSA University hosted the 6th European Conference on Service-Learning in Higher Education: "Futures of Service-Learning: Digital Empowerment, Transformational Literacy and Civic Engagement" in Rome on September 27th and 28th.

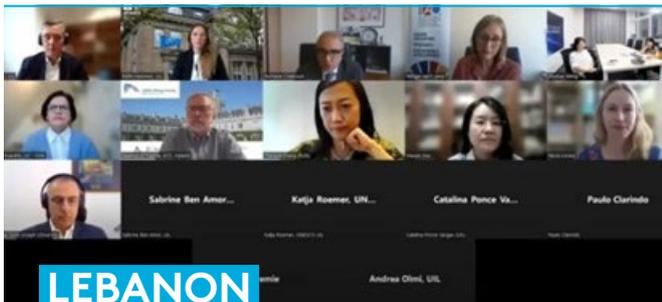
The conference was organised in collaboration with the European Association of Service-Learning in Higher Education (EASLHE) as well as

partners in the Erasmus+ SLIDE Project.

The event offered an opportunity to share best practices on service-learning and e-service-learning, strengthen collaboration and networking among service-learning networks in Europe and other continents, support higher education institutions in fighting against social exclusion, marginalisation and promote the empowerment of young generations.

The conference was addressed by two keynote speakers: Dr Kris Grimonprez, senior researcher in Civic responsibility, Democratic citizenship and European education (University of Leuven, Belgium) and Dr Irene Culcasi, founding member of the European Association of Service-Learning in Higher Education and expert in e-SL (LUMSA University).

NEWS IN BRIEF



USJ CFP PRESENTS INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODEL

Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) has found innovative ways to meet Lifelong learning needs through the establishment of a Professional Training Centre (CFP) in 2017. It is the main hub for continuing education programs in Lebanon and the Arab region, offering internal training programmes for the university community and external programmes for the public. Despite challenges like limited funding, and national frameworks, the Centre offers Certificates, customised programmes, and services like market research, consultancy, administrative support, and impact assessment.

During the international webinar organized by UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, on June 5, 2023, CFP was selected to present its innovative operating model based on the collaboration with all the faculties of the university and offering online and in person interdisciplinary training programmes, in English, French and Arabic, tackling technical and social themes. By developing programmes for the Lebanese diaspora and alumni, the Centre capitalises on the growing demand for continuing education.



GREENWASHING DISCUSSED AT MADRID SEMINAR

Nobel Prize in Economics laureate Robert Engle visited Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid in May to take part in the “Climate Finance and the Hydrogen Economy 2023” seminar. In the meeting, organised by the Chair for Low Carbon Hydrogen Studies in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (Comillas ICADE), the professor emeritus of the NYU Stern School of Business in New York, spoke about greenwashing, portfolios, and long-term risk.

In addition to Engle, the seminar was attended by well-known experts such as José-Luis Peydró, Clara Isabel González Martínez, Ricardo Gimeno, Alfredo Ibáñez, Fernando Zapatero, Rod McCrorie, Jesús Gonzalo, Gabriel Pérez Quirós, David Coca, Tipo Gerres, Rafael Cossent Arín, Ignacio Segarra Tamarit, and Ioannis Paraskevopoulos, to look for a combination of solutions that favours a green transition and mitigates climate change, and to evaluate risks and investment opportunities that arise in a constantly changing climate environment.

POLAND

INTERNALISING THE SOLIDARITY EXPERIENCE

Earlier this year, the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow launched a “Solidarity Summer School” – an intensive programme of online studies devoted to the internationalisation of the Polish experience of Solidarity. The Summer School was organised in two editions: 26-30 June and 10-14 July. A total of 100 students and doctoral students from 33 countries on five continents took part in them, which makes it the largest project of

this type at the university. The students met world recognised professors including Rocco Buttiglione, Joachim Wiemeyer and Stefano Zamagni. This high quality educational project was free of charge for the participants as it was supported by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange under the SPINAKER programme and co-financed by the European Social Fund.

solidarity.upjp2.edu.pl

NEWS IN BRIEF



SLOVAKIA

ORATORIO UNITES THE CHOIRS OF THREE COUNTRIES

On March 2, 2023 the university choir Benedictus of the Catholic University in Ružomberok, Slovakia, fulfilled its goal and

completed several months of singing training in the Jerusalem Theatre, where the magnificent musical work of the contemporary Israeli composer Efrat Rachel Gerlich - Daniel Oratorio was performed.

The 100-member Jerusalem symphony orchestra, the 80-member international choir (including Benedictus choir from Slovakia, choir Gaudeamus from Germany and two choirs from Israel - Halleluhu Choir and

Nigunim Laad Choir), six soloists and a narrator led by the baton of conductor Eli Jaffe, offered the packed audience almost two hours of musical drama, excitement and emotions through the musical presentation of the biblical story of Daniel and his companions. Their faith, courage, and loyalty to the one true God was convincingly presented in 23 parts of the oratorio supplemented with excerpts from the Bible in the Hebrew language.

MOBILISATION EN FAVEUR DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE ET SOCIÉTALE

FRANCE



En tant qu'établissement catholique, labellisé EESPIG, l'UCLy (Lyon Catholic University) se mobilise en faveur de la transition écologique et sociétale (TES).

Toute sa communauté universitaire y participe (étudiants, enseignants, chercheurs et collaborateurs administratifs et techniques), par des projets porteurs : des formations aux compétences et connaissances TES, une recherche éclairante, un engagement étudiant institutionnel et associatif, un fonctionnement écologiquement efficient et une politique sociale attentive.

Un Vice-Rectorat dédié a été mis en place en février 2023

(Vice-Rectorat Transition Ecologique, Responsabilité Sociétale et Qualité).

Il soutient cet engagement, avec l'appui des ressources et des lieux de partage de l'enseignement supérieur. La mobilisation de l'UCLy est inscrite dans la charte d'engagement de la ComUE-Université de Lyon en faveur de la Responsabilité Sociétale et Environnementale - RSE et dans l'Accord de Grenoble, signé en septembre 2023.

European Federation of Catholic Universities
Fédération des Universités Catholiques Européennes
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