

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

FUCE

In Brief | En Bref  
En Resumen

Issue No.6 — Autumn 2022



Ruined village in Ukraine's Chernihiv region, about 140km north east of Kyiv.

## UNIVERSITIES AS PLACES OF ENCOUNTER

The first sounds of Russian war drums were beating when the last newsletter went to print. Since then, we have witnessed the unjustified attack by the Russian Federation on Ukraine, its peoples and its institutions. FUCE stands in solidarity with the students and staff of Federation member the Catholic University of Ukraine.

It is important in times like these to come together as institutions of higher education with values grounded in human rights, social justice and democracy to stand up for these values and freedoms.

***The members of FUCE will stand ready to assist the Catholic University of Ukraine on the path of rebuilding and recovery as soon as it is possible.***

The Ukrainian Archbishop-Metropolitan of Philadelphia, the Most Reverend Borys Gudziak, addressed the recent IFCU General Assembly and appealed

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Metropolitan of Philadelphia, Borys Gudziak accepted the Sciat Vt Serviat award on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic University delegation and academic community at the 27th IFCU General Assembly. Also pictured is Fr. William P. Leahy, President of Boston College, who received an Ex Corde Ecclesiae medal.

to all our members to continue to pray for Ukraine, to counter the disinformation about the war and above all to offer whatever practical assistance is possible at this time and in the rebuilding of the University of Lviv in the future.

The critical situation in Ukraine will be a key element of our forthcoming General Assembly which takes place in the Catholic University of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Tirana, Albania 20-22 October 2022. The conference will explore some themes of the **Global Compact on Education**.



Pope Francis consigns the message of the representatives of religions to Deputy Director-General for Education at UNESCO Stefania Giannini.

In particular, catholic universities as places as of encounter and welcome for people from different cultural and religious traditions as well as catholic universities as promoters of peace, dialogue and solidarity. The General Assembly will draw on the experience of catholic universities in Ukraine, Lebanon, Albania and others in recent times.

In launching the **Global Compact on Education**, Pope Francis spoke of the need to “unite our efforts in a broad educational alliance, to form mature individuals capable of overcoming division and antagonism, and to restore the fabric of relationships for the sake of a more fraternal humanity.” This objective can only be achieved by envisioning sound economics, politics, growth and development built on the foundation of a sound anthropology, a new humanism and service.

The General Assembly in Tirana will provide us with the opportunity to reflect and engage more deeply with the commitments of the Compact and how these might best be implemented in the particular contexts and challenges which our institutions face.

At the General Assembly, delayed six months due to the pandemic, delegates will elect a new President and board of FUCE for the coming three years. I wish to express my deep gratitude to all the members of the board for their wisdom, guidance and support over the last three challenging years. In particular, I wish to salute Prof Therese Lebrun and Fr Nuno da Silva Gonçalves sj for their significant contribution to the board.

Finally, congratulations to all the teachers & students who participated in person in our summer school programme, European Humanism in the Making, which returned to the LUMSA campus in Gubbio.

The summer school which attracts students with leadership skills from across Europe (from Ireland to Georgia), reflected on the European project in its various dimensions. Twenty-five students attended and reported how much they valued the summer school as an enriching experience. They also appreciated the multicultural exchange with open-minded persons from various religious, cultural and national traditions and the personal interaction with the teachers

This year’s public lecture during the summer school **A Propos Medea: From Global Europe to Post-Europe and Back**, was delivered by IFCU President Prof Isabel Capeloa Gil, Rector of the Catholic University of Portugal and President of IFCU.

With the support of Erasmus funding, the summer school will be more sustainable into the future. We are exploring the prospect of an institutional ‘home’ for the programme with the resources to continually develop and expand module content in response to new developments and challenges for Europe, such as the war in Ukraine. I encourage all members of the Federation to promote this valuable programme among their students and to recognise the credits which are awarded on successfully completely in the module.

Look forward to meeting you soon in Tirana in October!

**Rev Prof Michael Mullaney**  
President – FUCE



# DIARY UPDATE

## FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

### 20-22 OCTOBER

#### TIRANA

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



**POLAND**

### JOHN PAUL II CAMPUS DEDICATED

On 8th June 2022 the academic community of the Pontifical University of John Paul II gathered at the University Library for the ceremony of the dedication and blessing of the grounds for the John Paul II Campus. The new campus includes a modern and functional complex for the library building and a newly constructed academic building. The campus courtyard, with its monument to St John Paul II at its centre, links the entrance

areas of both buildings. Advanced technologies and a trigeneration system will make the building energy positive in that it will be able to produce more energy than it consumes. Students on the new campus will deepen their knowledge and search for wisdom and learn how to make peace among people and be guided by love in their lives.

[kampus.upjp2.edu.pl](http://kampus.upjp2.edu.pl)



# GREAT MINDS GATHER IN GUBBIO

by Barbara Segaert, Scientific Coordinator,  
at the University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp

We were happy to meet again on the campus in Gubbio, Italy, and enjoy the hospitality of LUMSA University after two years of absence due to Corona.

Twenty-five students from 11 countries (Spain, Portugal, Ireland, France, Belgium, Croatia, Slovakia, Albania, Georgia, Ukraine and Lebanon) and 14 FUCE member institutes participated. They were enrolled in bachelor programmes on theology, history, literature, languages and cultural studies, sociology, political science and international relations, economics, management and communication and educational studies.

Once more, a very talented and highly committed group gathered to reflect on the reality of Europe and their contribution to shaping its future. Some of them voiced their opinions in the public panel debate MyEurope .

The core teachers' team was joined by the President of the International Federation of Catholic Universities, Professor Isabel Capeloa Gil, who presented a public lecture on global and post-Europe. Her lecture can be found on [www.ucsia.org](http://www.ucsia.org).

The programme offered by the team of coordinators appealed to the students as seen in some of their reflections on the school:

***"Reuniting in Gubbio, Italy, with different people, cultures, backgrounds, experiences, but with common values, created a multicultural exchange capable of envisaging Europe in the making from various disciplinary perspectives."***

***"Bringing together many realities and how this may be tangible to everyday life."***

***"Making us fully aware of what European humanism is and what is at stake."***

***"Rethinking certain values, acquisition of new knowledge and the formation of our European position."***

***"This program has allowed us to understand the contemporary issues we will have to face and the importance of being an advocate for a dynamic and humane Europe."***

***"The programme achieved its aims with the examination of European humanism and the role we can play in its construction, as students."***

***"While teaching the history of Europe and presenting its values, this summer school contributed to building a real European consciousness."***





The encounter with peers from other countries, facilitated by specific interactive work formats, proved as important as the course programme itself, as students testify:

***“The summer school has created a safe and open environment for constructive discussions aimed at learning and sharing and being able to talk about our own realities.”***

***“It has helped me to open my mind by meeting people from other countries and avoid many prejudices about foreigners from different countries (in this sense it has been very nice to meet people from Lebanon, far away in distance but culturally and mentally close to Europe).”***

***“The programme achieved its aim because our extensive discussions about our respective views and experience as Europeans and non-Europeans allowed us to become more humanist towards one another.”***

***“I think that the course has helped us to know the different points of view that one can have on the same subject depending on the place in the world where you were born.”***

***“I learned new information and was able to rethink my attitude to certain issues.”***



This proves how the learning outcomes are as much about building social skills and moral attitudes as about knowledge acquisition, as the students themselves recognise:

***“It is a program of exchange and sharing. It is a very enriching program on a personal and professional level.”***

***“It is an opportunity that opens your eyes to other realities and makes you get to know more than just your country and your comfort zone.”***

***“I feel like I left this week with a greater sense of humanity, I became more aware of other realities, totally different from my day to day life. This doesn’t have to do so much with the courses in itself, but with the contact I had with people from all corners of the world.”***

***“I learnt how to listen properly to other people, learn about their different cultures, but also how to respect and appreciate the beautiful diversity we have in this world. So, I enjoyed conducting a reflection on what it really means to be a human being in all its changeability.”***



European reality, with its subsequent crises, the Ukraine war being the latest, can be harsh, but should not discourage the new generation, as they state themselves:

***“The topic of war and the different kinds of war is so interesting to debate. Depending on the country, our sensitivity to these issues is different since some have never experienced this situation while others discover it in their country.”***

***“I have realised how much the EU strives to achieve its goals, even if sometimes it doesn’t reach them or only partially meets them.”***

***“I learned that the points of view on Europe were quite different among the younger generations, that Europe is fragile, but that Europe is beautiful.”***



## NEWS IN BRIEF



### DEVELOPING DOCTORAL STUDENT SKILLS

The Catholic University in Ružomberok organised the first Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme in cooperation with two Catholic universities, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in Poland, the Catholic University of Croatia in Zagreb and the University of Ostrava, Czech Republic from June 13th to June 23rd last.

The Academic Skills in Publishing and Project Preparation – Experience from Central Europe programme was aimed at helping doctoral students at partner universities to develop and improve their abilities in the areas of publishing and project preparation. Twenty doctoral students attended lectures and workshops during the in-person part of the programme in the Catholic University in Ružomberok and they also participated in a number of online activities.

### ITALY

### REFUGEE AND MIGRANT EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Faculty of Social Sciences of the Pontifical Gregorian University, the Being the Blessing Foundation, and the Refugee & Migrant Education Network (RME) are organising an international conference on ‘Initiatives in Refugee & Migrant Education Moving forward – Diving deeper – Together’ in Rome from September 26 to 28, 2022.

The gathering is aimed at university administrators, faculty, and education practitioners as well as leaders of NGOs, international agencies, and humanitarian organisations who are committed to enhancing and expanding educational opportunities for refugees and displaced peoples.

The conference takes place at a time of tremendous disruption and major challenges and will address questions such as what have we learned in the post-pandemic? What can be the best practices for amplifying refugee voices in academics? And how do we respond to today's crises? Participants will include the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and Thomas Smolich SJ, International Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service.

### SPAIN

### NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERCULTURAL LEARNING

CEU Cardenal Herrera University will host the fourth International Virtual Exchange Conference (IVEC) in Valencia, Spain from October 26 to 28 next. This is the largest conference of its kind in the world and represents a commitment to offer new opportunities for intercultural and transnational learning in higher education.

Over 600 international delegates are expected to participate, including 75 oral presentations, 30 posters, and several workshops. Discussions will be led by speakers and panellists from around the world, touching on different aspects related

to virtual exchange, collaborative learning, and intercultural education.

CEU Cardenal Herrera University is leading the implementation of Internationalisation at Home in Spain and collaborates with other institutions to co-create a unique global learning experience for students.

Visit : [www.iveconference.org](http://www.iveconference.org) to learn more about IVEC 2022 or contact [coil@uchceu.es](mailto:coil@uchceu.es) to explore ways of collaboration in research, business strategy or internationalisation projects.

# NEW FACES

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



## **Fr Mark Lewis SJ** **Rector of the Gregoriana**

The Holy Father Francis has appointed Rev Fr Mark Lewis SJ as Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University, with effect from September 1, 2022. Born in Miami, Florida, in 1959, Fr Lewis worked at the Historical Institute of the Society of Jesus in Rome, where he was Director from 1998. During that time, he began teaching at the Pontifical Gregorian University in the Faculty of Ecclesiastical History. He has published several studies on the history of education in the Society of Jesus. Following a number of assignments in the United States, he returned at the Gregorian University and in 2019 was appointed Academic Vice Rector.

"In these important assignments, Fr Mark Lewis has acquired a wealth of academic and governance experience, which he has generously placed at the service of the Pontifical Gregorian University in recent years," wrote his predecessor, Fr Nuno da Silva Gonçalves, SJ, in his letter to the University Community.



## **Fr Tomasz Homa SJ** **Rector of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow**

Fr Tomasz Homa SJ took up his responsibilities as Rector of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow for a period of four years on September 1, 2022. Fr Homa is a professor specialising in political philosophy. Areas of interest and research include social and political philosophy (citizenship, community, values of public life), ethics, civil society, EU, international cooperation.

Fr Homa says the coming years will see further development of Ignatianum in many respects, especially: qualitative – when it comes to research and teaching staff, fields of research and study; legal – concerning efforts to obtain the status of a university according to Polish law; managerial – in view of the University's digitisation being implemented; premises – which includes the expansion and modernisation of Ignatianum's teaching and research base, and cooperation – both at the national and international levels.



## MEMBER PROFILE

# THE UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LILLE

Founded in 1875, the Université Catholique de Lille is a federation of five faculties, 20 schools, Grandes Écoles, and institutes, along with medical and social institutions.

Working in close cooperation with its local and international partners, the university is an active participant in the social transitions of the contemporary world, taking an integrated ecological approach to research and entrepreneurial projects, with creativity and innovation as common threads.

The Université Catholique de Lille prides itself on its openness to others and to the world with 38,500 students, 6,000 of whom are international. The university partners with more than 500 universities around the world and offers a number of customised international programmes known as the LILLE Programmes.

Three hundred areas of study are covered by six distinct areas of research and training. These are Law, Economics, Management, & Administration; Political Science & International Relations; Literature & Human Sciences, Theology, Ethics, & Pedagogy; Health & Social Sciences; Science & Digital Technologies; and Innovation & Design Thinking.

### **Life experience is very much at the heart of the curriculum.**

Life experience is very much at the heart of the curriculum. Human training modules are included in all programmes while special attention is paid to students' personal and spiritual development. Students experience a very active community life with more than 1,000 student associations and spaces dedicated to co-design and artistic creation, exhibitions, performances, and workshops offered through Creative Campus.



The university is also proud of its caring tradition, and it includes 1,000 hospital beds and 850 EHPAD (elderly and dependent people) and ITEP (children with intellectual disabilities) placements. There are also three establishments dedicated to supporting people with disabilities. Home medical and social services are also provided.

The university is focussed on climate change and the transition to a low carbon future and has designated 2022 as a year of mobilisation for climate. With 15 different research chairs addressing various aspects of the transition, 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of different experimental city districts and demonstrators, the university's low carbon strategy includes the conduct of "life-sized" experiments on campus in areas such as energy efficiency, urban agriculture, alternative transportation, social participation, and new economic models.



### **ECOPOSS, "dare to praise the future"**

Over the past 10 years, the Université Catholique de Lille has undertaken radical change to become an exemplary "third place" of reinvention for a more sustainable, more ethical future.

This transformation, carried out by the schools and partner institutions of the Université Catholique de Lille is visible in the dynamic ECOPOSS project which will open up to new regional, national, and international participants through a major event to be held 26-30 October 2022 on the university campus: the ECOPOSS Biennale.

The ECOPOSS Biennale is a festival, a forum, and a factory of desirable futures. Participants will be able to enjoy the "ECOPOSS by Imagine" Film Festival, a book salon, exhibitions, competitions, performances, and more. Also included will be four international scientific colloquia; international foresight meetings; an interdisciplinary colloquium on "Sensibility, interpretation, and appropriation of digital data"; a conference on "Smart and Sustainable Cities"; a colloquium on "Big Data, influence & surveillance"; conferences, forums, meetings and debates concerning major social issues; and four "villages" hosting more than 200 activities planned by students from our faculties and schools, businesses, and associations.

The ECOPOSS Biennale invites all of society to imagine, to find inspiration, and to debate a wide range of themes, including food and agriculture, health and caring, parenting, communication and ethics, Europe and the reinvention of democracies, finance, business and economy for a more sustainable world, and technology and engineering at the heart of transition.

We hope to see you in Lille, and to dare to praise the future!





## PROFIL DU MEMBRE

# L'UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LILLE

Fondée en 1875, l'Université Catholique de Lille est une fédération de 5 Facultés, 20 Écoles, Grandes Écoles et Instituts et comprend également des institutions médicales et sociales.

Avec la créativité et l'innovation comme fils conducteurs, l'Université Catholique de Lille participe, en lien étroit avec ses partenaires au niveau local comme international, aux transitions du monde contemporain par ses projets de recherche, d'entrepreneuriat et de transition énergétique et sociétale, dans une logique d'écologie intégrale.

L'Université Catholique de Lille compte 38 500 étudiants dont 6 000 étudiants internationaux. Fidèle à sa tradition d'ouverture, elle a été une des universités françaises pionnières de la mobilité internationale et compte aujourd'hui plus de 500 universités partenaires dans le monde et un certain nombre de programmes internationaux sur-mesure : LILLE Programs.

Elle propose une formation intégrale composée de 300 filières, dans 6 domaines de formation et de recherche : *Droit, Économie, Gestion, Management ; Sciences Politiques, Relations Internationales ; Lettres et Sciences humaines, Théologie, Éthique, Pédagogie ; Santé, Social ; Sciences, Technologies, Numérique ; Innovation & Design Thinking.*

### **L'« expérience de vie » est au cœur du cursus étudiant**

L'« expérience de vie » est au cœur du cursus étudiant, avec des modules de formation humaine proposés dans toutes les formations et une attention donnée au développement personnel et spirituel des étudiants. La vie associative est très active avec plus de 1000 associations étudiantes. Des espaces dédiés au co-design et à la création artistique sont également à disposition, avec l'accès à des expositions, représentations et ateliers via le Campus Créatif.



Suivant une tradition du « prendre soin », l'Université comptabilise 1000 places en hôpitaux et 850 placements en EHPAD (structures d'accueil pour personnes âgées dépendantes) et ITEP (pour enfants présentant un handicap psychique) et propose également des services hospitaliers et médicosociaux à domicile. Trois structures sont dédiées à l'accompagnement des personnes en situation de handicap.

L'Université Catholique de Lille se place au cœur des transitions, avec la mise en place d'une stratégie bas carbone, des expérimentations « grandeur nature » sur le campus sur les thématiques de l'efficacité énergétique, de l'agriculture urbaine, des mobilités alternatives, de la participation sociale et des nouveaux modèles économiques. Elle comptabilise 15 chaires de recherche, 5000m<sup>2</sup> d'écosystèmes innovants, ainsi que des démonstrateurs et quartiers de villes expérimentaux. L'Université propose également une année de mobilisation pour le climat en 2022.



### **« ECOPOSS, osons l'éloge du futur ! »**

Au cours des 10 dernières années, l'Université Catholique de Lille a opéré une profonde mutation pour devenir un « tiers-lieu » exemplaire de la réinvention d'un futur plus durable et plus éthique,

Cette transformation portée par les écoles et les partenaires de l'Université Catholique de Lille est rendue visible dans la dynamique baptisée ECOPOSS. Cette dynamique s'ouvre à de nouveaux acteurs régionaux, nationaux et internationaux par un premier événement, la Biennale ECOPOSS organisée du 26 au 30 octobre 2022 sur le campus de l'Université.

La Biennale ECOPOSS est un festival, un forum, une fabrique des futurs souhaitables. Les participantes et participants pourront découvrir un Festival du cinéma « ECOPOSS by Imagine », un Salon du livre, des concours, expositions, spectacles, mais aussi 4 colloques scientifiques internationaux : les Rencontres internationales de prospective, un colloque interdisciplinaire « Sensibilité, interprétation, appropriation des données numériques », une conférence « Smart and Sustainable Cities » et un colloque « Big Data, influence et surveillance ». Des conférences, forums, rencontres et débats auront également lieu pour donner la parole à différents publics sur les grands enjeux de société. 4 villages accueilleront également plus de 200 animations préparées par les étudiantes et étudiants des facultés et écoles, entreprises et associations.

La Biennale ECOPOSS invite toute la société à imaginer, s'inspirer, débattre ensemble sur une large palette de thématiques : agriculture et alimentation, santé et prendre soin, parentalité, communication et éthique, Europe et démocraties à réinventer ; finance, économie et entreprises pour un monde plus durable ; technologies et ingénieries au cœur des transitions, etc.

Rendez-vous à Lille pour oser l'éloge du futur !





# RESILIENCE AS SOLIDARITY: RUNNING A UNIVERSITY IN TIME OF WAR

by Sofiya Opatska &  
Volodymyr Turchynovskyy

## #StandwithUkraine

There are two things we in Ukraine are preoccupied most these days: victory in the war and the future reconstruction and transformation of Ukraine. We want to share a few reflections which are shaped by these two major concerns which define our present day thinking, decision making, actions, communications, fighting, and praying.

On February 24th I was woken up by another Vice Rector of UCU, dissident Myroslav Marynych at 4:30 with the words "Sophia wake up. War has started." I cannot imagine how Myroslav felt after his life story - being for 10 years in Gulags, witnessing the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rebirth of imperial Russia.

## HORRIFIC REALITY

### Solidarity in Practice

From the first days of war, every Ukrainian - including young students in the University - was focused on helping other people to survive. Over the four months of the war, UCU collected \$3.44 million for

humanitarian aid. Most of the funds were spent on medical supplies for hospitals and people in the combat zone. Approximately 10% of the money was spent to support internally displaced people, 9% on protective and safety equipment for our soldiers, and 7% on food aid.

A huge number of initiatives were developed at UCU campus and among UCU Alumni. UCU Business school alumni started around 60 various initiatives. A group of UCU students has been involved in organising work at a shelter for people who have lost their homes. The shelter was established on the premises of the UCU Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at the start of the war. In its first three months, the shelter accepted 340 people, the majority of whom were people with disabilities and members of their families. It was the only shelter of this type in Lviv city.



### Curriculum Revisited

A number of courses shifted focus to persuading international companies to leave the Russian market for ethical reasons. As a result of using this service learning approach, both students and community benefited. As defined by Robert Sigmon, "service learning occurs when there is a balance between learning goals and service outcomes, each enhances the other for all participants".

In our case, we showed how to build a service approach that can help educational institutions in the context of short-term disruption and crises to continue fulfilling the primary role - educating students and also increasing the social impact and making education more meaningful for students.



### A Moral Combat

A free society is a moral achievement which cannot be achieved once and for all and forever. It requires everyone's effort and commitment. It's a kind of moral victory which is expected of everyone and all of us at all times. What is unfolding in Ukraine is a moral and spiritual combat for freedom and dignity. This is why our moral victory is of such importance for Ukraine, for Europe and for the world.

***We as the university community are in this combat. This is the time for us to be authentically what we are and who we are in standing for what is true, good and holy. This is the source of our resilience and the hope for the future.***



### Security Reconsidered

During these most dramatic trials for the Ukrainian people our perception of security has been evolving. It has shifted from 'nothing bad will ever happen to me' to a more mature 'whatever terrible thing might happen I'll be embraced by a network of solidarity and prayer'.

Security in the war time resides within the interpersonal network of solidarity, sacrifice, friendship, love and prayer. As never before, our sense of security is connected with awareness of standing on the side of what is good and just. In the times of insecurity and multiplying uncertainties to firmly stand for the right and noble causes makes you feel more secure from a spiritual viewpoint.

To put it in some simple words: whenever security doesn't feel secure it's because we succeeded in corrupting our relationships. This is why we are convinced our future also badly needs a new ethical infrastructure as well as a solidarity infrastructure. All three contours of the ethical, solidarity and security infrastructures are beginning to reveal themselves amidst the blood, pain and suffering of the war.

***Security in the war time resides within the interpersonal network of solidarity, sacrifice, friendship, love and prayer.***



### **A Gift of Sacrifice**

The new sense of normality we are experiencing during the war is related to the ultimacy of sacrifice along with its mysterious, life-giving and edifying power. At time of writing, we aware of eight people being killed on the front lines who belonged to the UCU family (whether as students, alumni or the close family members of our employees).

The university campuses continue to remain under a threat of deadly missile attacks and bombardments by Russian forces. On Friday, July 15 at least 10 Russian missiles hit two universities in the southern city of Mykolaiv. This is just but one sad case in a terrifying series of strikes aimed at the Ukrainian universities since the February 24 invasion.





*We firmly believe that the ultimate sacrifices made by our UCU colleagues, echoed by so many members of Ukrainian academia, are life and future-giving. The ultimacy and generosity of these gifts are meant to protect and to celebrate the beauty, richness and fullness of the lives of the many.*



## NEWS IN BRIEF



### NEW MARINE MASTERS FROM UCV

The Catholic University of Valencia (UCV) has been awarded European funding for its Joint Masters Programme on Marine Biotechnology (JMPMB) under the European Universities Alliance EU-CONEXUS Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability programme. The new programme will be launched in the 2022-23 academic year.

The Masters are coordinated by the UCV and delivered by different universities within the alliance. Grants will be offered to 84 applicants from around the world. Each student will receive a grant of €1,400 per month for 24 months. These grants will cover fees, travel and accommodation costs for the next four Masters programmes.

### FRANCE

## NEW CHAIR AT UCLY



The Catholic University of Lyon has created a University Chair dedicated to 'vulnerabilities'. The new chair is intended to be a laboratory for the ideas and practices which embody the intellectual specificity of UCLy.

With the ambition of communicating with society, the new chair leads a plural and interdisciplinary reflection, calling upon multiple competences and experiences. It promotes cooperation between researchers and practitioners and takes into account the many faces of increasing vulnerability in the contemporary world: from socio-economic to political crises, through to the emergence of the climate change.

It is in this spirit of openness, collaboration and societal commitment that the Chair regularly organises symposiums, research days and conferences. Two events took place in 2021-2022: the inaugural multidisciplinary colloquium (October 8th, 2021) on the theme 'vulnerabilities: from the theoretical framework to the practical issues', and the first of the UCLy Days (May 12th and 13th, 2022) which was open to the general public and promoted debate on the universal dimension of vulnerabilities.

### SPAIN

## A UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Universidad CEU San Pablo offers both graduate and undergraduate students a unique opportunity to enjoy an international learning experience from their own classroom by working with universities and other entities abroad on Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects and mirror lectures. The programmes are the product of collaborative work with international institutions, and they are integrated into the syllabus in a selection of courses. Through innovative case studies and challenges, students acquire the necessary competencies for analysis, critical thinking, and the development of solutions to social problems, from a global and multi-cultural approach, in line with the university's international commitment and values.

If you are interested in collaborating, please fill in this form: [forms.office.com/r/dg5AvurPaw](https://forms.office.com/r/dg5AvurPaw). If you require any further information, please contact [coil@ceu.es](mailto:coil@ceu.es).

### LEBANON

## ADDRESSING ISLAM AND OTHERNESS IN BEIRUT

The Third International Congress of the PLURAL network took place in Beirut from 23 to 27 May

2022. Thirty researchers from countries across the world including India, Canada, USA, Morocco, Turkey, Italy, France, and Germany came to present their latest work related to the theme 'Islam and otherness' at Saint Joseph University in Beirut.

The opening session, introduced among others Michel Jalakh, vice-president of the FUCE,

was entitled 'Islam and otherness, what are the stakes for an education in a context of plurality?'

The session offered an opportunity to hear Professor Salim Daccache SJ, Rector of Saint Joseph University, present an analysis of the theme from an angle on which he has developed particular expertise: education in otherness.

# FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

## TIRANA 20-22 OCTOBER 2022

Università Cattolica Nostra Signora del Buon Consiglio



### Thursday 20 October

- **Public lecture** "Global Educative Pact"  
Msgr Vincenzo Zani, Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, Holy See

### Friday 21 October

- **Working session** "Catholic universities facing intercultural and interreligious societies"
- **Working session** "Catholic universities standing for Peace, dialogue and solidarity"
- **Networking lunch**
- **The Ukrainian Catholic University in the war**
- **Prof Sofiya Opatska**
- **News from to the International federation of Catholic Universities by François Mabile**
- **President's dinner**



### Saturday 22 October

- **General Assembly** - election of new President and Board





# GLOBAL EUROPE: IDENTITY AND NARRATION

by Isabel Capelo Gil, Rector UCP/ President IFCU

Stories and narratives, shape our understanding of the world. They both reflect and produce a mindset. They organise the performance of identity, both individual and collective. In short, stories are 'acts of meaning'.

Europe is shaped by shared stories that convey a sense of belonging, connoting the multiple struggles that over millennia have produced peace and dissent, the values aggregating the personalist and humanist values of integrity, justice, solidarity, care, the right to a dignified living. These shared stories also display the violence and the wars that throughout our far from perfect history have constructed a European allegiance to the rule of law, democracy, freedom of religion, freedom of speech – very basically to the right to have rights.

Stories, then, not only reassure us of who we are, but, as acts of meaning, they allow us to reflect critically on the processes that have shaped our becoming. One of the current concerns in European

discourse (political, social and cultural) is – again – the question of who the European is? Who belongs in the narrative? Who is allowed to produce the story and shape its representation? Does Europe continue to be Europe if it encompasses the flows of global diaspora? Should the very formulation of Europe become global – 'global Europe'? Or is Europe the driver for all global ills, guilty of spreading modernity's four horsemen of apocalypse: colonialism, slavery, imperialism, capitalism?

***The arguments reflect a struggle over the imagination of Europe.***

Over the story told and over difference. And if cultural difference is what defines the existence of culture itself, it is also crucial to understand that this is a concept anchored on division and strife, just as Europe is.

The imagination of Europe has been historically built around the construction of borders. A geography

of limits articulated the imperial discourse of Rome from myth to politics. Rome's founding myth, the story of Romulus and Remus, enunciates the violence that both structures and protects a demarcation practice.

***The process of culture begins with the setting of boundaries, and it is precisely at the border, the savage and unhomely space of the limes, that culture is ultimately affirmed.***

Arguably, the border produces both the empire and the philosophical idea of Europe. Becoming occurs in limine. Consequently, the space that substantiates and co-produces the idea of Europe only becomes what it purports to be at the edge, when the limits are reached. One might say that Europe becomes Europe in Lampedusa and Callais.

Becoming in limine, on the cusp of the line of demarcation, the idea of Europe is informed by the boundary, and it is immersed in its vernacular hybridity and untidiness. Hence, Europe is not, if not in the face of its contestation. The limits that produce its identity are precisely the porous opening convoking its dissolution. Europe is thus revealed to be a tensional figure, that is never done with being undone. In fact, a figure that retrieves its rhetorical strength from the ever-present perspective of demise.

In this sense, Europe is the yardstick to a reverse rhetoric of potentiality, arguably addressing both the suggestion of unrealised possibilities, inspired by the unfulfilled actions of the past, and the very possibility of never being so. A rhetorical redoing of Europe must address the two figures of impotentiality, the refugee and the migrant. Antagonising the fixity of the border, they choose 'not to do', doing away with limits, specifically those of the State, and citizenship, just as they potentially transform the structures that produce the cultural, religious, and ethnical boundaries for those within.

If Europe, as Massimo Cacciari claims, is not until it reaches the extreme (Cacciari, 2016:58), the refugee is perhaps the phenomenological extreme that will, once again, force Europe to be what it has always been, a space of mobility, exchange, translation, adaptation, disruption. A space of passage, encounter, and recognition. And this is precisely the social, cultural, and historical context from where European humanism grows, as a process of renewal founded on a dialogical, processual, and critical encounter with the past. This critical encounter that lies at the root of European humanism is what makes it a powerful proposal for the renewal of our runaway present.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### BELGIUM



## NEW EUROPEAN STUDIES PROGRAMME AT LEUVEN

Together with seven partner universities within the Una Europa consortium, KU Leuven will officially launch its new Bachelor of European Studies on Monday, 03 October 2022. The international, multilingual and interdisciplinary joint programme focuses on the fundamental aspects and values of the European Union as well as on European states and societies. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach, students will reflect on the role of Europe in the world and master research skills needed to analyse key issues related to Europe. An extensive mobility programme enhances the truly European experience offered by the course.

More information at [www.jointbaes.be](http://www.jointbaes.be)

### SPAIN

## EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE ENLARGEMENT

The Ramon Llull University has formalised an agreement to participate in the ENGAGE.EU European Universities Alliance. European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, delivered the opening speech at the signing ceremony, which took place on May 26th last at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Hanken School of Economics Helsinki also joined the alliance on the day. Both universities will participate in the preparation of a proposal for the enlargement of this Alliance which will be submitted in the next call of the European Universities Initiative, scheduled for the beginning of 2023.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



SPAIN

### SALAMANCA THEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Continuing an uninterrupted tradition of more than 50 years, the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of Salamanca will hold its Days of Theology Conference on October 26 and 27.

In previous years the conference reflected on various current issues such as theology and Writing, ecotheology, and interreligious dialogue. This year's event will feature reflection and dialogue on the meaning and necessity of prayer in the life of the Church in the context of a secularised culture.

The Archbishop of Boston, HER Sean P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap, will open the conference with a reflection on prayer in the midst of the suffering of the world.

Teachers specialising in the subject from its anthropological, biblical, pastoral, mystical and testimonial perspectives will address the conference. Among them will be Martín Gelabert (FT Valencia), Nuria Calduch (PU Gregoriana), Juan Antonio Marcos (UP Comillas), Francisco García (UP Salamanca).



SPAIN

ITALY

### NEW RESEARCH ADDRESSES YOUTH, AFFECTION, AND IDENTITY

The Salesian Pontifical University launched a three-year research project 'Youth, affection, identity' with the first seminar 'Cultural diagnosis and anthropological question' taking place on Saturday, June 4th last.

The series of seminars offers an overall framework in which scholars can contribute their thoughts on the different influences that affect educators and, through debates, suggest new paths of educational work.

The topics discussed in the first seminar included affective culture, anthropological questions, and educational challenges; the sexual revolution and fashion changes; digital intimacy – teenagers, love and sexuality in the age of the internet; and digital technologies and behavioural modification.

Future seminars will address the following themes: youth, maturation of affections and good life; the sense of sexual difference; social transformations and affective education; and Salesian charism and good educational practices.

### CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS FOR DEUSTO ALUMNI

The Deusto Business School Alumni Association, the oldest of all business schools in Spain, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year and is marking it with a series of events in Madrid, Barcelona, San Sebastian, and Bilbao. The association currently has more than 7,000 members working in over 2,700 companies. The main event will take place on November 25th at the University of Deusto (Bilbao) with a meeting with Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Council. This important event will be attended by representatives of the business community as well as leading institutional figures along with members of the Deusto Alumni Association.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### KRU-PED KRAKOW MEETING

The Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow hosted a meeting of the Conference of Rectors of Pedagogical Universities (KRUPed) on June 6th to 8th last. The main subjects of the meeting included the question of formation and qualifications required from instructors, as well as the status of pedagogy as a field of study.

Speakers included Minister Włodzimierz Bernacki, Secretary of State and government plenipotentiary for the implementation of the higher education reform in Poland; Prof Marcin Pałys from the University of Warsaw, head of the Council for Sciences and Higher Education.

KRUPed universities represented during the meeting were the Maria Grzegorzewska University; the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa; University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn; the Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities; Pedagogical University of Krakow; Pomeranian Academy in Slupsk; and the Jesuit University in Krakow.



### NEW HEALTH CENTRE AT ULS

La Sagesse University (ULS) opened a new health centre on its campus on March 8th last. Under the patronage of Archbishop Boulos Abdel-Sater, the new centre free primary medical care to students, professors, university staff and their families.

As part of its service to the community, ULS is seeking through this centre to support the university family by reducing their health costs in this difficult time for Lebanon and to compensate for the lack of free access to healthcare.

The new centre consists of a clinic, a consultation room and a physiotherapy laboratory. The medical team comprising a family doctor, a nurse, a psychologist and a team of physiotherapists, provides care for everyday accidents and free medical consultations.

### GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL WEEK IN GEORGIA

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University will host an International Week from November 14th to 18th next. Professors, scholars and PhD students from Georgian and foreign universities are welcome to participate in the two international conferences to be held during the week - Law and Security in the World after Russia-Ukraine War on November 15th, and Development: Initiatives, Solutions, Actions to Increase Well-Being on November 17th.

For detailed information, visit webpage: [www.sabauni.edu.ge](http://www.sabauni.edu.ge)



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SPAIN

## EL MONUMENTO TARDORROMANO DE CENTCELLES CONGRESO

Del 28 al 30 de junio se ha realizado el congreso El monumento tardorromano de Centcelles: datos, contexto, propuestas. La organización ha ido a cargo del Ateneo Universitario Sant Pacià, el Museo Nacional Arqueológico de Tarragona y el Instituto Superior de Ciencias Religiosas Sant Fructuós.

Este conjunto monumental es un patrimonio excepcional del periodo tardorromano próximo a Tarraco, la capital de la Hispania Citerior. La impresionante cúpula y mosaicos translucen majestuosidad, apuntando a la hipótesis de una lujosa villa cuyo esplendor máximo se alcanzaría en tiempos del emperador Teodosio (ca. 380).

Las ponencias han ido a cargo de veintitrés especialistas, en un debate interdisciplinar que unía arqueología, historia, arte, teología. Hemos contado con diversos profesores de universidades europeas: Göttingen, Münster, Padova, Napoli, Roma Tre, Tours, Católica de Croacia, Complutense de Madrid, Nacional de Educación a Distancia, además de algunos centros de investigación locales. Una especial mención merecen el Pontificio Istituto di Archeologia Cristiana y el Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.

### LEBANON

## PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH



Antonine University (UA) has put mental health at the forefront of its priorities as it supports its internal and external communities to excel in their contribution to society. The university has put in place a unique, ambitious, and innovative initiative in the Lebanese academic landscape, and was proud to have received the patronage of the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health for the second edition of its Wellness and Mental Health Week. With the theme of Flourish Your Wellbeing, the week-long event consisted of 20 on-campus and virtual workshops delivered in English, French, and Arabic and hosted by a group of prominent experts from universities in Britain, Canada and Lebanon. The eight wellness dimensions, as identified in the wellness wheel: social, financial, spiritual, emotional, academic, environmental, occupational, and physical, were all covered during the daily sessions.

Watch : [fb.watch/dU-Z3wsL2W/](https://fb.watch/dU-Z3wsL2W/) or read more about this event [ua.edu.lb/en/news/launching-of-the-wellness-and-mental-health-week-2022-at-antonine-university](https://ua.edu.lb/en/news/launching-of-the-wellness-and-mental-health-week-2022-at-antonine-university)

### SPAIN

## CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL LA POTENCIA EDUCATIVA DE LA RELACIÓN

La Universidad Francisco de Vitoria quiere poner el centro en la persona, en su forma de aprender y en su necesidad natural por verse acompañado.

Un congreso pensado por y para los formadores, tanto del ámbito escolar como universitario, en los que a través de sus ponencias, mesas redondas y talleres se quiere proponer el acompañamiento como el estilo o espíritu llamado a animar e inspirar cada

experiencia formativa.

Acompañar significa estar dispuesto a avanzar con el otro por el camino del aprendizaje, de la investigación y de la maduración personal. Caminar juntos no quiere decir avanzar en paralelo, ni simplemente trabajar juntos, sino que implica un radical ponerse en juego, una arriesgada y generosa salida de uno mismo, que lleven a un auténtico encuentro personal y comunitario.

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

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## LEBANON

### NEW COURSES FROM USF

Since its foundation, the Holy Family University (USF) in Batroun, Lebanon has been concerned with serving the educational community by addressing the academic and societal issues affecting the profession.

In response to the situation created by the pandemic and to the need to boost pedagogical approaches via distance learning, as well as to foster creativity and innovation in the field of teaching and learning, USF launched a Diploma in Creativity and

Innovation in Pre-university Education in 2020. The diploma was developed in collaboration with international partners AUF, IFP and CEMA.

USF has set as a strategic objective for the 2022-2023 academic year the development of the performance of educators and administrative professionals working in schools located in peripheral regions of Lebanon by offering them university degrees in management, coordination and inclusive education.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## BELGIUM



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUILDING AT USL BRUSSELS

L'Université Saint-Louis Brussels hosted its third Academic Staff Week from March 7th to 11th last. During the week, the university welcomed eight professors from seven partner universities from Europe and South America with the twin objective of inviting them to contribute to regular classes and seminars and to reinforce the existing cooperation with institutions around the world.

In addition to their teaching duties, the professors took part in a number of social activities a welcome lunch and drink, a visit to the Choco-Story Museum, and a closing aperitif dinner.

## ITALY

## CURIA REFORM VIEWS SHARED

The Institutum Utriusque Iuris held a study day on the Apostolic Constitution Praedicate Evangelium regarding the Roman Curia and its service to the Church in the world in the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Lateran University on May 17 last. Published on March 19, the Constitution entered in force on June 5, 2022. During the conference, renowned legal scholars in canon law gathered to share their positive views with regard to this important document of the Catholic Church. Amongst the speakers was His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Secretary of State of the Holy See, who remarked that Praedicate Evangelium depicts one of the most triumphant and main goals of Pope Francis's pontificate: the reform of the Roman Curia. All the interventions of the distinguished legal scholars who took part in this Study Day have been gathered and carefully edited by Prof Francesco Giammarresi for publication.

## UKRAINE

## A HUB OF SOLIDARITY IN UKRAINE

Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) has emerged as a hub of international academic solidarity since the February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. The support received from around the world has proved invaluable to the UCU community in its service to Ukraine and its struggle for freedom.

Among other initiatives, the "Network of Solidarity and Strategic Partnership," was launched by UCU to support talented undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. Some 35 universities worldwide (29 from the EU; three from the US; two from Canada; and one from Asia) have become partners in this project which is offering 245 scholarships to UCU students for the next academic year. Fifteen of these institutions are Catholic universities, which are members of IFCU and FUCE and have contributed 115 scholarships for UCU students and faculty.

UCU encourages other universities to join the Solidarity Network to support talented Ukrainian youth to obtain a high-quality education in Ukraine and contribute to the restoration of their country.

To join the network, please, contact us at [international@ucu.edu.ua](mailto:international@ucu.edu.ua)

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