



Written by the hand of human or AI? ChatGBT's emergence brings new challenges in education.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: CHANGING THE RULES OF THE EDUCATION GAME?

At a recent faculty in-service day in St Patrick's College Maynooth, our Registrar gave us a real time demonstration of an essay outline generated using the new artificial intelligence (AI) powered text generator ChatGPT launched by tech company OpenAI late last year.

***Educators everywhere are waking up to the new challenge: a wave of "algiaism" or AI-assisted plagiarism posed by the emergence of ChatGBT.***

The essay title was the 'Christological Dimensions of Phillipians 2'. Although not perfect, with little personal reflection or anecdote, the first draft of the essay outline had the potential for a 'B' grade from the Professor of Scripture who was present.

Continues on page 2

As you probably already know, ChatGPT is a computer-learning programme that analyses hundreds of millions of words of text and makes a statistical calculation, guess or prediction about the next plausible word in a sequence of words. Students can ask it questions ranging from simple factual queries to requests for it to create poetic verse and receive clear and coherent responses written in natural English.

ChatGPT has been praised and criticised alike for the quality of its output. While the tool provides quick and easy answers to questions, it does not build the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for academic and lifelong learning. But it is rewriting the norms of learning and the concept of creativity and originality.

While the computer-generated text might appear as human answers, this computer system has no concept of reality or the world. When the software produces text students will probably still need to give significance or meaning to the text. No matter how clever, convincing or coherent the computer-generated text appears, the student's input will still be required as they can never assume that the content generated by the computer is accurate.

***If students are interested in their own personal and academic development, ChatGPT can be another tool for research. If they see the assignment or essay only as an end in itself, the technology is opening a new and era in plagiarism or algjarism.***

Turnitin, the company that works with thousands of universities and second level schools to help teachers identify plagiarism, has said it plans to roll out a service this year that can accurately tell whether ChatGPT has done a student's assignment for them.

However, Turnitin admits that it would not be able to detect ChatGPT with 100% accuracy. For Turnitin's AI detector to be successful, it would have to constantly be updated and changed to keep pace with the rate the AI bot is learning. Even if ChatGPT planted a hidden signature or digital watermark to enable plagiarism to be detected, it would potentially be shooting itself in the foot. In any case, this possibility does not look like being available anytime soon.

In response to this development, academics, higher education consultants and cognitive scientists across the world have suggested universities

develop new modes of interactive and reflective assessment in response to the threat to academic integrity posed by AI.

Many educators are redesigning their programmes to return to written examinations, oral examinations, group work and hand written assessments in place of typed ones. This will require more interaction and conversation between educators and students. Not always possible where there are high student teacher ratios.

There may be some answer in the apothegm, 'if you can't beat them, join them'! For some educators this development should be seen not as a threat but as part of the evolution in education and instead of trying to ban and block it, the innovation should become part of their standard tool kit.

This may be the only viable option as generative AI is still in its infancy. OpenAI is expected to shortly release an updated tool, GPT-4, which will be even better at generating text than previous versions. Meanwhile Google has built the rival AI bot LaMDA and other Silicon Valley giants are planning to invest billions in AI tools, according to a recent article in the NY Times (16 January 2023).

For the moment, ChatGPT is free of charge and available to anyone with access to the internet. There are fears, however, that when there is a charge for accessing it or some more advanced variation of it, as inevitably there will be, this will create an uneven playing field by giving an unfair advantage to students who can afford it.

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



## DIARY UPDATE

# FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 4-6 MAY LILLE

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## BREAKING FREE FROM PLASTIC

Last November, in an effort to promote sustainability and increase environmental consciousness, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) at **Antonine University** (UA) organised an on-campus awareness session on the benefits of recycling and how detrimental improper waste management and plastic pollution can be for the planet.

Speakers from the STOP Plastique, Human Environmental Association for Development

(HEAD), and Plastic Lab associations shared how they embarked on their environmental missions. They also succeeded in engaging the UA students, faculty members and administrative staff, as well as the external public in initiatives to recycle more effectively and better and take care of the environment.

Participants from the UA Green Club expressed their enthusiasm for supporting the goal of the University to turn UA into a green campus. Finally, the participants signed a "Break Free From Plastic" flag which will be hung inside the University.



# NEWS IN BRIEF



POLAND

## CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME

The **Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow** held a scientific and methodical symposium entitled 'Caring for our common home; Integral ecology in school education' on September 17th, 2022. The event was part of the "Climate Change related to Catholic Education as a Subject in the Higher Education Programmes of Education Science" (CHANCES) project.

Participants were presented with different aspects of upbringing and education in the spirit of integral ecology and the implementation of practical solutions to build ecological awareness that is based on believing in God the Creator, from whom the world - our common home - comes. Examples of classes for children that can be conducted in catechesis, in preschool and school were also given.

SPAIN

## FOUR MORE YEARS FOR CONEXUS

The European Commission has announced a four year extension to the European University EU-CONEXUS transnational European higher education and research alliance covering smart urban sustainable coastal development. The **Catholic University of Valencia San Vicente Mártir** (UCV) has been an active member of the alliance of nine universities since 2019.

During the first three years, UCV led the transformation of member alliances in the education area. The Minors Programme, an initiative created in conjunction with the other partner universities, enables students to customise their personal study programmes across disciplines and on digital channels.

A Joint Masters programme in Marine Biotechnology, developed by the alliance, has proved to be an innovative joint curriculum and has received an additional Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters grant to support the students' studies. Strong foundations have also been laid for the development international of joint PhD programmes, micro-credentials, and more intense research cooperation.

In the next four years EU-CONEXUS will aim to build on successful pilot programmes and involve other universities in creating international study offers, research projects, and further collaborations within the European Education Area.

SLOVAKIA

## RUŽOMBEROK RALLIES FOR IRAN

On 30th of November 2022, a meeting of students and teachers was held at the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the **Catholic University in Ružomberok** in a Campus Rally for Iran. The initiative was an expression of solidarity with Iranian academics who express strong disapproval of the Iranian government's brutal crackdown on protesters in Iranian cities. Many of the victims are university students.

The trigger for the protests was the arrest and subsequent violent death of a young 22-year-old woman named Mahsa Animi for not wearing the hijab properly. Philosophy PhD student Raziye Taherkhani addressed the rally and spoke about the events that occurred after the arrest and subsequent violent death of the young student and the current situation in Iran.

# NEW FACES

In this edition we introduce the recently appointed new rector at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University.



From left: Apostolic Nuncio in Georgia and Armenia, archbishop Jose Avelino Bettencourt, Fr. Akaki Chelidze, prof. Vaja Vardidze, Mons. Giuseppe Pasotto, Apostolic Administrator of Latin Catholics in Georgia and Armenia.

On December 9th last, a ceremony took place at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University to inaugurate Camillian brother Father Akaki Chelidze as the university's Rector, replacing Prof Dr Vaja Vardidze who has headed the university since 2009.

*"It is a great honor for me to have such a trust and I will do everything one possibly can in order to ensure that Saba University fulfills its mission in the best possible way, creating the proper conditions for the acquisition of knowledge and scientific research"*

Fr Chelidze.

Fr Chelidze studied philosophy in Warsaw and theology in Verona. Following his ordination in 2006 he served as a chancellor of Apostolic Administration of Caucasus. Until 2021 he was responsible for working with young people in the direction of vocation. In 2021 he was appointed as a vice-rector of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University.

The ceremony was attended by Apostolic Nuncio, archbishop Jose Avelino Bettencourt, Apostolic Administrator of Latin Catholics in Georgia and Armenia, Mons Giuseppe Pasotto (founder of the University), and ambassadors from different countries, professors, students, and invited guests.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SPAIN

## CEU HOSTS VIRTUAL EXCHANGE EVENT

Last October, **CEU Cardenal Herrera University** hosted the fourth edition of the International Virtual Exchange Conference in Valencia, Spain. More than 500 professionals from 42 different countries attended the conference, the world's largest and most prominent event on the topic, which included more than 60 sessions touching on different aspects of innovation in teaching.

Attendees to IVEC 2022 included lecturers and university managers and administrators who actively promote the use of new, multicultural educational approaches through the use of technology, as well as students who have

participated in innovative and international activities such as Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) and Blended Intensive Programs (BIPs).

CEU Valencia has been developing virtual and blended projects with international partners since 2019. These have involved the joint design of innovative lines of work and integrating them into the study plans to better respond to the training needs of the students.

Read more about the event at [bit.ly/IVEC2002\\_CEU\\_Valencia](https://bit.ly/IVEC2002_CEU_Valencia)





## MEMBER PROFILE

# NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY-LOUAIZE



NOTRE DAME  
UNIVERSITY  
— LOUAIZE —  
جامعة سيدة  
اللويزة

In the 35 years since its foundation, Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) in Zouk Mosbeh, Lebanon has established no fewer than seven faculties which offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate studies programmes and specialisations.

These faculties are the Ramez G. Chagoury Faculty of Architecture, Arts and Design (FAAD); the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE); the Faculty of Engineering (FE); the Faculty of Humanities (FH); the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS); the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS); and the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences (FNHS).

The university continues to expand its offering and, in line with its commitment to the highest educational standards, it has engaged in an ongoing process to achieve internationally recognised accreditation for each faculty, department, and programme.

NDU's educational framework, based on the American liberal arts model, achieved accreditation from the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) in 2018. This placed NDU among only 12 other universities outside of the US to

have received this certification.

This institution-wide certification is very welcome, but it is also important for individual faculties and programmes to achieve accreditation from the relevant awarding bodies and associations in their respective fields.

Those efforts go all the way back to 1999 when the Faculty of Humanities' Department of Media Studies was accredited by the International Advertising Association (IAA) for its BA in Advertising and Marketing, making it the only degree programme of its kind in Lebanon to be IAA-approved. A more recent achievement for the department saw the Division of Audio Visual Arts (DAVA) granted accreditation by the International Association of Film and Television Schools (CILECT) in 2017. The DAVA is one of only 180 audio-visual educational institutions from 65 other countries with this endorsement.

The Faculty of Engineering has been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) since 2013. The ABET certification was awarded to the undergraduate programs in civil, computer and communications, electrical, and mechanical engineering. Chemical and petroleum engineering majors were only introduced in 2017 and are currently progressing through the accreditation process. Once completed, the entire faculty will be ABET-accredited.

Faculty-wide recognition was recently achieved by the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (FBAE) when it was accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in November 2022 following a six-year review process. The AACSB is the highest-ranking accreditation board in the world. This accreditation places the FBAE in the top 5% of business schools worldwide, and in the top 2% of business schools outside of the US.

***The university continues to expand its offering and, in line with its commitment to the highest educational standards, it has engaged in an ongoing process to achieve internationally recognised accreditation for each faculty, department, and programme.***

In terms of programmatic accreditation, the FBAE additionally holds two certifications from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) for its accounting program, received in 2018 with nine exemptions for official ACCA examinations, and recently renewed in 2022. Likewise, the ACCA accredited the faculty's banking and finance program in 2020, this time with six exemptions.

Following in the footsteps of the Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences has had its computer science major accredited by ABET since 2018 and is due for reaccreditation this year. And since autumn 2022, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics has put forward its Actuarial Sciences major as another ABET accreditation candidate and is confident of a successful outcome.

Other programmes being assessed at present include the Faculty of Architecture, Art, and Design's architecture program, having achieved eligibility for initial candidacy by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). The Department of Architecture will make its submission in March, and this will be followed by an official visit by the NAAB in towards the end of the year.



All majors offered at the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences are being appraised to ensure they meet the criteria of each programme's respective accrediting body. The nutrition programme is revising its curriculum to ensure that it meets the standards of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND); the bachelors degree in food safety and quality management is under review for accreditation by the Institute of Food Technologists Higher Education Review Board (IFT HERB); the 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.





# NEW FUCE BOARD ELECTED

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN TIRANA ELECTED A NEW FUCE BOARD.



### PRESIDENT

#### Rev Prof Michael Mullaney

Rev Prof Michael Mullaney has been President of **St Patrick's College Maynooth**, Ireland since 2016 and President of FUCE since 2018. He is also the Professor of Canon Law at St Patrick's Pontifical University. Prof Mullaney serves as a judge on the National Marriage Appeals Tribunal and is the canonical adviser to the National Safeguarding Board in Ireland.

## BOARD MEMBERS



### Michel Jalakh

**Michel Jalakh** has been rector of **Antonine University** since 2017 and an associate professor of ecclesiology and ecumenical studies. He served as an official of the Holy See in the Congregation for the Oriental Churches (2000–2008) and as secretary general of the Middle East Council of Churches (2013–2018).



### Carlo Maria Gallucci Calabrese

Carlo Maria Gallucci Calabrese is vice-rector for International Relations and Students at the **Ramon Llull University** (URL), Barcelona, and Professor of Marketing at Esade-URL. A Doctor Honoris Causa from the Catholic University of Córdoba (Argentina), he studied at the University of Messina, at Esade-URL, at the Comilla Pontifical University, at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and at Harvard University.





## Sofiya Opatska Vice-President

Sofiya Opatska is Vice Rector for Strategic Development at the **Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU)** and Founding Dean at UCU Business School (LvBS). Her areas of expertise are organisational strategy, leader character, and the entrepreneurial mindset. She has gained rich experience of leading organisations herself through turbulent times including revolution, Covid, and war.



## Gennaro Iasevoli

Gennaro Iasevoli is currently Vice Rector for Research and Internationalisation at the **LUMSA University**, where he is Full Professor of Marketing and Business Management. He served as Director of the University's Department of Communication, Training and Psychology for four years. He is also Secretary of the Italian Management Academy.



## Valérie Aubourg

Valérie Aubourg is Vice-Rector for Research at the **Catholic University of Lyon**. She is an anthropology-ethnology professor and a specialist in Christianity and Creole societies. From 2012 to 2019, she led the Institute of Family Sciences. She has been Director of the research unit "Confluence: Sciences and Humanities" since 2020.



## Prof Hrvoje Štefančić

Prof Hrvoje Štefančić has been Vice-Rector for International Relations at the **Catholic University of Croatia** since October 2020. He joined university in 2012 and served as Vice-Rector for Science until September 2020. His research interests include physical cosmology and complex systems science.



## Rev Dr David S Koonce

Rev Dr David S Koonce is Academic Vice Rector and Professor of Theology at the **Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum** in Rome. His primary area of teaching and research is fundamental theology, focusing specifically on questions of theological method.



# FUCE SUMMER SCHOOL LEADS TO JOINT DECLARATION ON EUROPEAN HUMANISM

The St Ignatius University Centre, Antwerp (UCSIA) coordinates the annual FUCE Summer School and presented a report on the 2022 event in Gubbio to the General Assembly in Tirana in October.

Three summer schools have been held so far, two in person on the Gubbio campus of LUMSA university and one online. To date, 59 students from 14 member institutes from 11 countries (Spain, Portugal, Ireland, France, Belgium, Croatia, Slovakia, Albania, Georgia, Ukraine and Lebanon) have enrolled in the schools.

The switch to an online format necessitated by the pandemic led to a number of students dropping out of the school. However, the change also enabled the school organisers to develop a blended intensive programme which was eligible for funding under Erasmus+. This funding covered the expenses of participating students and staff, with the exception of non-EU partner countries, for which the FUCE continues to bear the costs.

At the General Assembly in Tirana, it was decided that LUMSA will host the next edition of the summer school at its other outdoor campus in Palermo, before switching to the Catholic University of Lille, which will host it in 2024.

A blended intensive programme requires an online component delivered before, during and after the in-person course. Prior reading of the course manual and personal reflection on its content by means of guiding questions prepares the student for the interactive course, where individual work and group discussion are documented in an online 'travelogue' or portfolio.

On the suggestion of the students, a joint Gubbio declaration was drawn up at the post-online meeting. This declaration was signed by all 25 students involved in the 2022 summer school.





## The Gubbio Declaration: A Call to the Leadership of European Society & Governance, September 2022

We join with Pope Francis who dreamt of “a new European humanism”, one that involves “a constant work of humanization” and calls for “memory, courage, [and] a sound and humane utopian vision”. (Address on receiving the Charlemagne Prize, 6 May 2016).

### Learning from the past, we

- acknowledge that we have different histories marked by both violence and domination, and the building of peace
- are convinced that striving for freedom and justice can only come from facing the past clearly
- and empathetically claim responsibility for the past in order to understand the present and construct the future

### Reflecting on the present, we

- are aware that we address a polyvalent crisis and that the urgent problems of today, including war, environmental degradation, forced migration, inequality, discrimination and so on, are interconnected and are affecting everyone in Europe and other regions and nations directly or indirectly
- acknowledge those who come to Europe from different corners of the world in search of a better tomorrow
- identify the key challenge of social and economic inequality to shape and impede the capacity of young people for social mobility and inclusion
- encourage special care be paid by political discourse to historical accuracy, peace building and empowering people to face a rapidly changing world
- conclude that the response to these contemporary and future challenges can never be merely technocratic or economic but must be based on the unfolding understanding of what it is to be human, including our historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds



### Believing in our future, we

- warn against hollow utopianism and/or cynicism
- call for the building of trust between people and government and all who hold positions of leadership as key to the legitimacy of democratic institutions, and other institutions in the economic sphere and civil society
- appeal for flexible cooperation between nations and regions, both within Europe and beyond, to meet the challenges we face together
- emphasise the vital role of education in fostering a European consciousness; an education that is marked by real encounters with each other, open access and critical inquiry
- accept that we are privileged people, with a responsibility to initiate the transformation of Europe into something better. Europe is what we make of it. We have the power to fix it

### Accepting the challenge, we

- assert the importance of solidarity, cooperation, human rights, human dignity, and freedom, in caring for the common good in Europe and globally
- understand that European humanism is an ongoing journey and therefore continuously in the making

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### ESPAÑA

## 25 AÑOS POR EL INSTITUTO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS DE DEUSTO

El Instituto de Derechos Humanos de la **Universidad de Deusto** ha cumplido 25 años. Una apuesta académica que nació con el objetivo de convertirse en un referente de la formación, investigación, transferencia y sensibilización social, en materia de promoción y protección de los derechos humanos. Este centro refleja y visibiliza el compromiso de Deusto con la paz y los valores cívicos y, en definitiva, con la justicia social, seña de identidad de la Universidad y de la Compañía de Jesús. Sus áreas de trabajo son la Ayuda Internacional Humanitaria, protección internacional de los derechos humanos, migraciones internacionales, diversidad cultural y cohesión social, minorías, convivencia, Paz y resolución de conflictos.

### POLAND

## KRAKOW DIGITAL ARCHIVE PROJECT COMPLETED

The Laboratory of Inventory and Digitisation of Monuments of the **Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow** concluded its Digital Archive of the Archdiocese of Krakow project in December 2022. Taking advantage of the latest technologies, the most valuable archives comprising three resources of unique scientific, cultural and historical significance have been digitised and made available on the internet. These are the Archives of the Archdiocese of Lviv, Archives of the Metropolitan Curia in Krakow and Archives of the Diocese of Bielsko-Zywiec.

Over the course of the project which began in 2020, more than a thousand archival units made with a specialised high-resolution scanner designed for old prints were published on a specially prepared portal. This allowed for the reproduction of all the parameters of the documents in extremely high resolution. Similar equipment is used by the Library of Congress of the United States.

Making such a large number of archival records available not only contributes to the preservation of their material substance, but also enables scientists, historians, art historians, genealogists, teachers, tour guides, high school and university students, enthusiasts and all interested people to use them.

### ITALY

## JOINT DIPLOMA FOR WOMEN AND THE CHURCH

The fourth edition of the Joint Diploma in Women and the Church promoted by the **Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum** (APRA) Institute for Higher Studies on Women is taking place in Rome at present. The diploma is a collaboration with a number of pontifical universities and is sponsored by the Conference of Rectors of Roman Universities and Pontifical Institutions (CRUIPRO) and the Academia de Líderes Católicos of Latin America.

The goal is to deepen the specific contribution of women in the life and mission of the Church and to activate processes of mutual collaboration between women and men in ecclesial spaces.

The course is designed for priests, religious and laity (men and women) engaged in the ecclesial sphere or in formative roles in the different forms of consecrated or associative life, that want to raise awareness and activate processes in these areas, to promote greater and better collaboration between men and women within the Church. The general programme approach follows the dynamic of listening, discerning and acting.

The programme is available on [upra.org/en](https://upra.org/en)



# NEWS IN BRIEF



## ITALY

### REFLECTING ON ABRAHAM HESCHEL'S LEGACY

On November 29, 2022, the Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies and other international academic institutions came together to sponsor a conference in commemoration of the Jewish theologian Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972) on the 50th anniversary of his death.

The conference was introduced by Fr Mark

Lewis SJ, Rector of the **Pontifical Gregorian University**, and Rabbi Ariel Stofenmacher, Rector of the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires), and speakers included internationally renowned figures from both the Catholic and Jewish worlds: Prof Benjamin Pollock (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Prof. Susannah Heschel (Darmouth College - Hanover, USA) – the daughter of the celebrated scholar, and Archbishop Giacomo Morandi (Bishop of Reggio Emilia - Guastalla, Italy).

The video of the event is now available on the @UniGregoriana YouTube channel.

## LEBANON

### EDUQUER À LA RESPONSABILITÉ CIVILE

Le 21 novembre 2022, veille de la fête de l'indépendance du Liban, la Faculté de l'Éducation de l'**Université Sainte-Famille** (USF) a organisé un symposium à l'université sur le rôle de l'éducation dans le renforcement de la responsabilité civile, avec comme exemple l'explosion dramatique du port de Beyrouth survenue le 4 août 2019. Étaient présents le père Youssef Nasr, secrétaire général des écoles catholiques du Liban, Sœur Marie-Antoinette Saadeh, supérieure générale de la congrégation des Sœurs maronites de la Sainte Famille et Sœur Dr Hilda Chelala, Rectrice de l'USF, ainsi que les vice-rectrices et diverses instances civiles et académiques.

Les différents intervenants ont insisté sur le fait que l'éducation doit œuvrer vers plus de justice

sociale. Ainsi, M. Elie Hastrouti, fils de Ghassan Hastrouti, victime de l'explosion de Beyrouth a présenté son initiative appelée « Le 4 août » (Date de l'explosion). Quant à Dr Wadiha Khoury, elle a appelé les éducateurs à construire une société responsable tout en s'inspirant du drame de 4 août. Ensuite, M. Al-Étel, ingénieur, a présenté son projet de mémorial dédié au souvenir de l'explosion du 4 août, qui a gagné le premier prix dans la compétition architecturale YVAC 2021 qui fut organisée pour Standout archi Ltd.

Finalement le père Nasr a pris la parole et a souhaité beaucoup de succès pour les travaux du symposium. Inspiré par cette rencontre, il a appelé à créer des cadres de coopération entre les écoles et les universités catholiques du Liban pour une meilleure éducation.



## FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT FROM TIRANA

# PROMOTING THE VISION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR EDUCATION.

By Fr Michael Mullaney

The Global Compact on Education launched by Pope Francis calls on Catholic tertiary education to respond to the challenge to repair, rebuild and restore the broken relationships between peoples around the world and with our planet.

Education is one of the most powerful sources of hope that each of us can offer to the world at this time. While educators and students may not be on the frontlines of the many crises facing that humanity and the planet, we can respond and grapple with them in our lecture halls, libraries and labs as we reflect and search for solutions and build solidarity in working together.

The mission of our university education must not only equip our students to find meaningful career paths, but also forming mature people

and adequately prepared citizens and leaders empowered with a transformative ethical vision of solidarity, responsibility and service in commitment to the common good and our common home.

For this reason, the General Assembly in Tirana 20-22 October 2022, invited Archbishop Zani, the outgoing Secretary of the Congregation of Catholic Education to address our gathering of the Federation of the Catholic Universities of Europe, Lebanon and Ukraine on the philosophical and pedagogical principles inspiring the vision and objectives of the Global Compact for Education. Just as the changes and crises are interconnected and interdependent so too should the response. The European Federation of Catholic Universities can be a powerful agent in promoting the vision and objectives of the Global Compact for Education.

The General Assembly provided a forum to reflect and discuss some of the key themes in the Global Compact for Education: Catholic universities standing for peace, dialogue, and solidarity (with





specific reference to Lebanon); Catholic universities facing intercultural and interreligious societies (with specific reference to Albania).

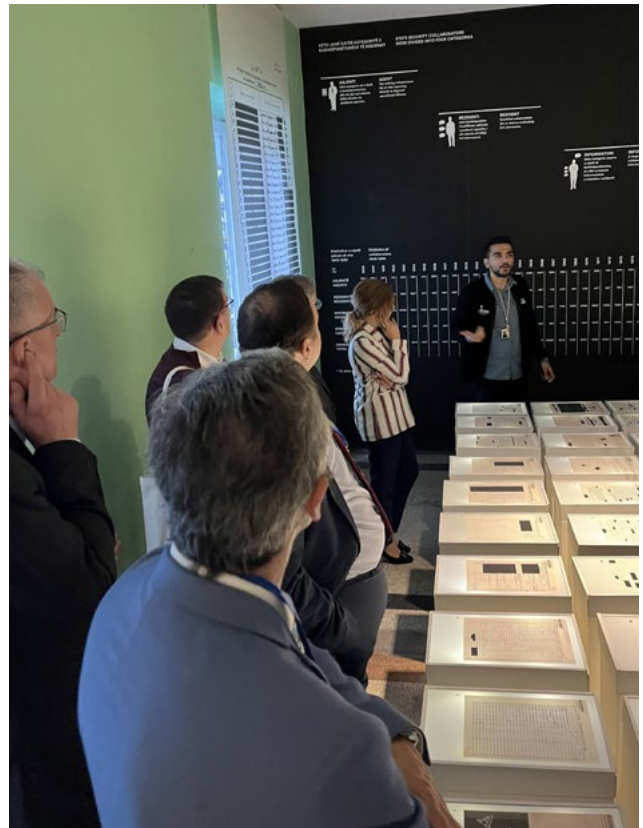
It was the first time many of the participants of the Assembly were in Tirana and it was a wonderful opportunity to see some of the sites of the city but in particular to explore and learn more about the University of Our Lady of Good Counsel. On behalf of all the delegates, I would like to express again our gratitude to our wonderful hosts, especially, the President Fr Jerome Ndo Mih, and the Rector, Prof Bruno Giardina.

***One of the key aspects of the General Assembly is the opportunity for participating delegates to meet and get to know better their colleagues and counterparts from universities throughout Europe.***

There was a warm collegial and collaborative atmosphere among the delegates. Some old friendships were renewed and new friendships were forged.

At this General Assembly, the new Board was elected, and its membership reflects the rich diversity of universities across Europe, Lebanon and the Ukraine. I congratulate all the new Board members and I look forward to collaborating with them in the service of the Federation over the next three years. The biographies of the new Board members are listed in this newsletter. I am deeply humbled and honoured by the Assembly's renewal of my mandate as President for another three years.

We look forward to welcoming the members of the Federation to the Catholic University of Lille 4-6 May. The main topic of this forthcoming event will be European Catholic Universities and the EU: Challenges and Perspectives. The Board would still welcome academic colleagues in the Federation to submit papers for the Assembly.





# WELCOMING OUR FRIENDS TO THE FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TIRANA 2022

by Rev Fr Jerome Ndo Mih, President of Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel"

General Assembly is the most important meeting for the community of catholic universities in Europe to discuss the challenges facing them at present.

FUCE 2022 took place at Catholic University Our Lady of Good Counsel in Tirana Albania from 20 to 22 October. This wonderful event was very successful and had massive participation from European universities and Lebanon and promoted dialogue among members, institutions, and researchers to accomplish their mission.

The assembly commenced with greetings from authorities and His Excellency Msgr Angelo Vincenzo Zani made a speech on the Global Compact on Education. He brought the message of Pope Francis who invites everyone who cares about the education of the younger generation to sign a Global Pact to create a global change of mentality through education.

On the second day of the assembly the rectors and academics joined working sessions to discuss the main contemporary issues of education such as "Catholic Universities Facing Intercultural and Interreligious Societies" and "Catholic Universities Standing for Peace, Dialogue and Solidarity".

At the end of the working sessions, FUCE members visited St Paul's Cathedral and two museums, the 'House of Leaves and Bunk Art' in Tirana city centre. Members were impressed by the history of Albania and its rapid development.

The General Assembly concluded with the election of Rev Prof Michael Mullaney as President of The Federation of European Catholic Universities.

The assembly was a very good opportunity for all FUCE members to exchange ideas and begin new collaborations among European Catholic Universities. It was also an excellent occasion for Catholic University Our Lady of Good Counsel to share experiences, showcase the advances accomplished in recent years, and present Tirana to a wide community of distinguished scholars from the whole of Europe. The staff were very enthusiastic and welcomed the rectors and academics from Europe and Lebanon. Although Catholic University Our Lady of Good Counsel was only founded in 2004, it has already made huge progress in the field of education and is one of the best universities in Albania.

***The assembly also had a positive impact and sparked interest among Albanian scholars and ecclesiastical authorities.***

The visit of FUCE members to Albania was a great support for us at Catholic University Our Lady of Good Counsel and has motivated us even more to excel in achieving our goal for better education and the formation of our students.

Inspired by the success of the General Assembly of FUCE 2022, we believe that the collaborative spirit will endure, and we look forward to broader cooperation amongst Universities of the European Federation of Catholic Universities. Let us join hands and work towards a greater future of cooperation and research and ultimately contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in Europe and Lebanon.



# FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

LILLE 4 – 6 MAY 2023

Université Catholique de Lille



## Thursday 4 May

- **Public Lecture** by a representative of the European Commission (to be confirmed)
- **Lecture theme:** "European Catholic Universities and the EU – challenges and perspectives"



## Friday 5 May

- **Two working sessions** with 8 panellists from throughout Europe
- **Introduction to the Université Catholique de Lille** by the President-Rector Patrick Scaflair
- **15th anniversary of the FUCE Grant programme** 'Feedback on success'
- **Networking lunch**
- **President's dinner**



## Saturday 6 May

- **General Assembly**
- **News from the International federation of Catholic Universities presented by François Mabilie**



## 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 Mirosław 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."

### ITALY

## PONTIFICAL LATERAN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 250 YEARS

The **Pontifical Lateran University** commenced its Jubilee Year on October 5th, 2022, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of its foundation. The university was founded in 1773 by Pope Clement XIV following the merger of the then Roman Seminary with the School of Theology of the Roman College. The celebration started with a Holy Mass presided over by the University Grand Chancellor, the Cardinal Vicar, Angelo De Donatis, followed by a *Lectio Magistralis* given by His Eminence, Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops in the Aula Magna of the University.

During the celebration, the Rector Prof Vincenzo Buonomo, highlighted some of the significant achievements of the university over the years. They include the establishment of four faculties in philosophy, theology, canon law, and civil law, and two Institutes - pastoral and *utriusque iuris*. More recently, as requested by Pope Francis, two cycles of inter-faculty studies in Peace Sciences and International Cooperation, and Ecology and Environment, and a Centre for Advanced studies and post-graduate specialisation (CLAS) were introduced.

### BELGIUM

## INTERNATIONAL STAFF WEEK IN BRUSSELS

**Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles** is organising the fourth edition of its Academic Staff Week from March 13th to 17th 2023. This year's event has been renamed International Staff Week and is now open to #administrative as well as academic staff.

This International Staff Week will be an opportunity for Université Saint-Louis-Bruxelles to strengthen ties with its partner institutions within the framework of Erasmus+ and will offer its professors, staff members, and participants the opportunity to expand their networks and create new collaborations.

As was the case with the first three editions of the Academic Staff Week (ASW) in 2019, 2020 and 2022, the 2023 event will welcome professors and researchers from partner universities and include a number of social and cultural activities as well as networking opportunities.

If you are interested in joining the International Staff Week, contact the International Office of Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles's for more information via [international@usaintlouis.be](mailto:international@usaintlouis.be)



## NEWS IN BRIEF



ESPAÑA

### LA UCAM SOCIA HONORARIA DE LA SECTORIAL DEL HIDRÓGENO VERDE

La **Universidad Católica de Murcia** se une, como socia honoraria, a la Asociación Sectorial del Hidrógeno Verde en la Región de Murcia, AHMU, que trabaja para conseguir la transición de la Región de Murcia hacia las energías renovables. Esta nueva vinculación, mediante sus titulaciones y grupos de investigación, promueve la base del conocimiento para conseguir una economía descarbonizada gracias a las energías renovables y al hidrógeno verde.

En la actualidad existen diversas iniciativas desde la Católica que contribuyen a conseguir una

transición energética limpia y la optimización de los recursos renovables para generar mayor cantidad de energía. La UCAM experimenta en un espacio demostrador de la Escuela Politécnica Superior, con el que ha llegado a conseguir abastecer de electricidad, agua caliente y aire acondicionado a un sector del Campus de Los Jerónimos. Estas instalaciones están compuestas por un conjunto de paneles solares fotovoltaicos, un aerogenerador y un sondeo geotérmico vertical de 100 m, la primera infraestructura de geotermia profunda desplegada en la Región de Murcia.

ITALY

### EXEGESIS AND HERMENEUTICS CONFERENCE FOR PONTIFICAL BIBLICAL INSTITUTE

The church will commemorate some of its documents on the interpretation of the bible during 2023, namely *Providentissimus Deus* (1893), *Divino Afflante Spiritu* (1943), and *The Interpretation of the Bible in the Church* (1993). To mark the occasion, the **Pontifical Biblical Institute** is organising an international conference on “Exegesis and Hermeneutics: Searching for a Nexus Between

History, Theology, and Cultures/ Contexts” which will take place in Rome on May 4th to 6th, 2023.

The conference will provide a forum to revisit the hermeneutical challenges facing exegetes, namely the expectations of both academic and faith-based communities, and the diversity of the cultures and contexts which affect the way they perform their tasks.

The four sessions of the conference are organised around the notion of the nexus between history, theology, and cultures/contexts in the way exegesis is done. Nexus in this case has become an acronym – Nurturing Exegetical Understanding of Scripture (N.Ex.U.S.) – with the aim of fostering greater integration of all the dimensions.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### RAMON LLULL JOINS EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE

**Ramon Llull University** has formalised an agreement with the founding universities of the ENGAGE.EU European Universities Alliance to participate in its future enlargement

European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, delivered the opening speech at the enlargement ceremony which took place on May 26th last at the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The collaboration agreement between the Hanken School of Economics in Helsinki (Finland) and Ramon Llull University (Spain) with the ENGAGE.EU European Universities Alliance was formalised during the ceremony. Both universities are participating in the preparation of the proposal for the enlargement of the alliance to be submitted in the next call of the European Universities Initiative which is due to take place shortly.

### UKRAINE

### OVERCOMING THE TRAUMAS OF THE PAST ON BEHALF OF THE FUTURE

The **Ukrainian Catholic University** and the University of Notre Dame have collaborated on a collection of articles in a new book "The Trauma of Communism". The book contains accounts of difficult decades of history by scholars from the USA, Czech Republic, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

The publication is the result of many years of cooperation between Ukrainian Catholic University, the University of Notre Dame, and five universities of Central and Eastern Europe as part of the Catholic University Partnership.

"The battle today in Ukraine is not only to defend freedom, dignity, and the life of each person who is 'here and now' under the threat of merciless evil. It is important that this is not only a battle which, perhaps paradoxically, will liberate the past, because this remains uncertain if it's not concluded today. I recall that the stories accounted in this publication fill us with hope, vitality, and prayerful solidarity with the past," said Volodymyr Turchynovskyy, Dean of the UCU Social Sciences Faculty.

### PORTUGAL

### NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COURSES

**Universidade Católica Portuguesa** has launched three courses dedicated to UN Sustainable Development Goals #13 - Climate Action, #14 - Life Below Water and #16 Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions. The new courses aim to introduce to the academic curriculum subjects specifically dedicated to the

study and understanding of various Sustainable Development Goals in order to promote awareness of the global challenges addressed by the UN's 2030 Agenda for sustainability.

The elective courses are available to any undergraduate student at the university and are being developed on an interdisciplinary basis between various schools. The course dedicated to Sustainable Development Goal #16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, is currently underway and two other courses addressing SDG 13 - Climate Action (already offered in 2021/2022) and SDG 14 - Life Below Water will be made available in the second semester of the current academic year.



## NEWS IN BRIEF



ESPAÑA

### UN CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL A ATENEO UNIVERSITARIO SANT PACIÀ

El **Ateneo Universitario Sant Pacià** ha programado un Congreso internacional para los días 14 y 15 de febrero de 2023, bajo el título: "La Iglesia es toda ella sinodal. Hacia los sínodos de 2023 y 2024".

Este congreso se enmarca en la fase continental del Sínodo, y además, en los trabajos de investigación de los diversos departamentos de Teología, a lo largo de este curso y alrededor del eje de la sinodalidad.

Para las conferencias contaremos con la presencia de ocho obispos representando las conferencias episcopales de España, Francia, Italia, Alemania, Bélgica, Escandinavia y la Tarraconense. El arzobispo de Barcelona, Cardenal Joan Josep Omella, miembro de la secretaría del Sínodo, presidirá los actos.

Será una magnífica ocasión para escuchar las experiencias sinodales en cada una de estas conferencias episcopales, visualizando los puntos en común y a la vez la peculiaridad de cada región europea.

BELGIUM

### L'UNAMUR REJOINT L'ALLIANCE EUROPÉENNE UNIVERSEH

A partir de ce mois de décembre, l'**UNamur** intègre l'Alliance européenne « European Space University for Earth and Humanity » (UniversEH), axée sur la thématique de l'espace. Il s'agit d'une réelle reconnaissance de l'expertise de l'UNamur dans le domaine du spatial, et d'une porte d'entrée pour de nouvelles collaborations internationales tant en matière d'enseignement que de recherche, dans un secteur d'avenir, porteur d'emploi et de développement socio-économique.

L'alliance UniversEH s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'initiative des « Universités européennes », promue par la Commission européenne. L'UNamur devient membre de cette alliance qui compte six autres universités, qui travaillent toutes sur différents aspects de l'Espace : sciences, ingénierie, économie, sciences sociales et humaines, sciences et médecine, développement durable, art et culture, brevets et innovation, entrepreneuriat, etc. Les membres de l'alliance ont l'ambition d'offrir de manière conjointe des programmes intégrés et des formations innovantes tant sur le plan pédagogique que de l'acquisition de compétences transversales, de promouvoir la mobilité des étudiants, des enseignants et des chercheurs, de développer les liens avec le monde de l'entreprise et la société civile, de soutenir le multilinguisme et l'inclusion et de contribuer ainsi au renforcement de l'espace européen de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche.

En savoir plus : [unamur.be/universeh](https://unamur.be/universeh)

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## ITALY

### NEW PROJECTS AT ANGELICUM

The **Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas** (Angelicum) is currently undertaking renovations to its 450 year old cloister and its library. The university is also initiating a new project on the theological reception of scripture that will host new initiatives in biblical theology as well as the study of the patristic reception of the bible in the first five centuries of Christianity. The university received eight new Dominican professors this semester and recently initiated a new programme to advance the theological education of sisters, especially those from the global south, with help from the Hilton Foundation.



### L'UCLILLE ACTRICE DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE

Signataire d'un engagement « neutralité carbone 2050 » avec la Métropole Européenne de Lille (MEL), l'**Université Catholique de Lille** a fait de 2022 « une année climat », organisant une « Convention Universitaire Climat » en fin d'année. 150 personnes, dont 100 étudiants et 50 membres du personnel de l'université, ainsi que le maire adjoint de quartier, ont participé à cet événement original, débouchant sur une 50aine de propositions concrètes pour que les campus et les modes de vie deviennent de plus en plus durables. Pour cela, les premières séances de travail ont permis une véritable formation aux enjeux climatiques, grâce à des experts dialoguant sur les différents scénarii de transformation sociétale visant à relever les défis liés au climat. Une vraie aventure humaine de co-élaboration intergénérationnelle, d'écologie intégrale, terminée par une séance finale devant les responsables politiques de la MEL et la direction de l'université, et une mise en œuvre concrète à venir!



### LE DOCTORAT HONORIS CAUSA REMIS AU PROFESSEUR THOMAS RÖMER

À l'occasion de la rentrée solennelle de l'UCLy, le jeudi 6 octobre 2022, le Professeur Thomas Römer s'est vu remettre le titre de Docteur Honoris Causa par l'**Université Catholique de Lyon**. Il s'agit là d'une distinction exceptionnelle dans l'histoire de l'UCLy, à l'intention d'un

chercheur dont le parcours l'est tout autant. De renommée internationale, ce chercheur suisse étudie depuis plus de quarante ans les écrits de l'Ancien Testament pour mieux en décoder les clés de lecture.

Lors de cet événement, Olivier Artus, Recteur de l'UCLy a voulu souligné que la remise d'un Doctorat Honoris Causa au Professeur Thomas Römer, Administrateur du Collège de France, était l'occasion d'honorer la figure d'un grand chercheur. La venue du Professeur Römer a également marqué le lancement d'une année universitaire placée sous le thème des Sciences et des Humanités, au moment où s'ouvre un chemin de commémoration qui portera l'Université catholique de Lyon jusqu'à son cent-cinquantième anniversaire en 2025.