

FUCE

In Brief En Bref En Resumen

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

LEUVEN & LOUVAIN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025 REPORT

Prof. Elena Beccalli, President of the FUCE

At the beginning of my term as President of our Federation, I can only preface every word and every thought I wish to share with you with a profound sense of gratitude: first of all to Professor Michael Mullaney, who has guided FUCE thus far with wisdom and farsighted vision. My thanks also go to the new Administrative Board, currently composed of Prof. Dermot Nestor—who has also been elected our new Vice-President—Prof. Taras Dobko, Prof. Peter Heinrich Hanenberg, Prof. Carlo Gallucci, Prof. Fr. David Koonce, Prof. R.P. Rony Darazi, and Prof. Franck Violet. Finally, my gratitude to all FUCE members for your trust above all, for your unwavering commitment, and for the responsibility we will share in these delicate and difficult times.

As you know, during IFCU's 28th General Assembly, hosted from July 28 to August 1 at the Universidad del Valle de Atemajac (UNIVA) in Guadalajara, I was elected Vice-President, and Carlo Gallucci was elected as a member of the IFCU Board. This means that our natural involvement with the international Federation of which we are a part will become even more substantial and decisive in the years to come, during the term of the new President, Father Francisco Ramírez Yáñez, Rector of the Universidad del Valle de Atemajac.

There is one conviction above all that I wish to share - an ethical mandate for our universities precisely because they are Catholic: not simply to become the best universities in the world, but the best universities *for* the world, keeping alive the founding idea of the university. To keep that vision alive is to stay awake to the world: to track its shifts, to listen to the next generation, and to renew our teaching and research accordingly. Universitas - embracing both the whole and the community, as Pope Francis has recalled - began as a guild of students and masters shaping culture in the city. Rooted beside cathedrals and monasteries, yet open to squares, markets, and crossroads, the first universities were woven into daily life, debating the quaestiones, the questions that matter most for our common future. I like to think that this original spirit has not been exhausted and continues to nourish an idea of the university as a place of free, open, and respectful encounter and dialogue, where we contribute to building the common good in the search for truth. In light of this fundamental mandate, I would like to share here the letter I read during the General Assembly of our Federation, held on June 6, 2025, in Leuven.



Leuven, June 6, 2025, Michael Mullaney and Elena Beccalli

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Prof. Elena Beccalli, Rector Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

FUCE is an important Federation whose valuable mission is fostering relationships among universities that share common principles, goals, and commitments. Its advocacy is to make its voice heard within European institutions and be regarded as the institutional position of European Catholic Universities vis-a-vis research strategy, and academic development of the European Higher Education Area. In order to continue playing a central role in our continent in the coming years, I believe it should increasingly serve as a laboratory for sharing ideas with European institutions, steadfast in its spirit of openness and dialogue.

FUCE is a platform for European alliances amongst its members. It facilitates and encourages connections and potential collaborations. Also through the engagement of Lebanese universities, our platform could contribute to promote peaceful coexistence and interreligious dialogue. To do this, the Federation should offer innovative perspectives on reality, supporting proposals for the construction of new frameworks across various sectors, with solid scientific foundations. This requires a disposition to continuously reflect on fundamental issues and the strength to pose meaningful, forward-looking questions, rather than merely responding to yesterday's challenges. At the same time, it involves engaging with dominant paradigms to offer a renewed vision. To take part in this process, FUCE's working method should increasingly rely on a more robust alliance among the Federation's universities to initiate projects that benefit both students, institutions and society. It is essential to reaffirm that education and culture constitute the bedrock of European civilization. Therefore, if appropriately recognized and supported within EU policies, they can reinforce the idea of Europe and help to actually realize it, restoring the soul of the Union - that is more and more threatened by populist tendencies and an often intrusive bureaucratic approach. Recovering the original spirit that underpinned the foundation of the first universities - born in Europe itself - will be crucial.

The following strategic priorities have, in my view, to be explored:

- Strengthening partnerships and strategic alliances among European Catholic Universities, particularly in relation to students, through mobility and exchange programs as well as through the development of distinctive FUCE joint degree programs. This could lead to the development of dual degrees (at BSc, MSc, and PhD levels) among universities of our Federation, with the goal of enhancing interdisciplinarity.
- Representing the proactive counterpart of institutions for the European Higher Education Area on issues such as university alliances, and funding schemes for universities. For this purpose, policy white papers will be drafted and made available to members.
- Developing joint research programs by periodically proposing projects focused on the major issues of our time, so that Catholic Universities can continue to maintain their voice and contribute to revitalizing European identity and its roots. This could be implemented through the collaboration with the Dicastery for Culture and Education within the framework of the UNI_TED project, and would furthermore facilitate greater participation of the Catholic University network in major EU-funded research programs (such as Horizon Europe, EIT, ERC).
- Increasing opportunities for the exchange of faculty and researchers, with particular attention to young academics, enabling them to strengthen their skills and knowledge while also gaining a deeper understanding of FUCE's core values.
- Promoting admin staff exchange initiatives to foster the sharing of best management practices and a common understanding of the unique mission profiles that characterize Catholic Universities.
- Bringing the European perspective to the International Federation of Catholic Universities, a vision strongly championed by the founder of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Father Agostino Gemelli.

Milan, April 30th, 2025

THE NEW BOARD AND THE NEW GENERAL SECRETARY ARE BEGINNING THEIR TERM

The new Administrative Board is currently composed of Prof. Dermot Nestor, President of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland, who has also been elected new Vice-President of FUCE; Prof. Taras Dobko, Rector at Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine; Prof. Peter Heinrich Hanenberg, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation at Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon, Portugal; Prof. Carlo Gallucci, Vice-Rector for International Relations and Students at Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain; Prof. Fr. David S. Koonce, L.C., Academic Vice-Rector at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum, Rome, Italy; Prof. Rony Darazi, Vice Rector for Cooperation and Internationalization at Antonine University, Hadat-Baabda, Lebanon; and Prof. Franck Violet, Vice-Rector for International and Europe Development at Université Catholique de Lyon, Lyon, France.

The new Secretary-General, Prof. Paolo Gomasasca, also officially begins his term, succeeding Prof. Franck Violet. Paolo Gomasasca is Full Professor of Moral Philosophy at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy. At the university, he is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Center for the Social Doctrine of the Church, of the Transdisciplinary Research on Food Issues Center, and of the Graduate School for the Environment. He is furthermore Scientific Director of the Master's programme Making Radio: Creation and Communication of Radio, Audio and Podcast Content at the Graduate School of Media, Communication and Performing Arts.



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**SAVE
THE
DATE**



An aerial photograph of Zagreb Cathedral, a large Gothic church with two prominent spires. The image is in a dark, blue-toned style. The cathedral is the central focus, with its intricate architecture and spires reaching towards a cloudy sky. The surrounding city of Zagreb is visible in the foreground and background, with various buildings and greenery. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

20-22 MAY 2026

**General Assembly -
Catholic University
of Croatia, Zagreb:**

**INSPIRING CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITIES IN
CHALLENGING TIMES**

UER PROMOTES WITH OTHER FUCE MEMBERS THE BIP “ROME AT THE ORIGINS OF EUROPE”

For the Jubilee year, the European University of Rome is offering the FUCE universities a programme to discover Rome as centre of Christianity: the BIP Erasmus “Rome at the origins of Europe. The legacy of a multilayered city shared by different communities” held from February to May, in presence from April 7th to 12th.

The urban space of Rome has received down the centuries various national groups and different settled communities. Pilgrims coming from all over Europe found there (and find till today) the traces of a common identity composed of faith, memories, events, visions of the life, rites, images. Such a heritage is part of the European culture and the historical pathway of people gathering in Rome leads up to the origins of the foundation of the European Union.

Therefore, it is important to provide students with a combination of both basic and up-to-date knowledge, skills, competences, values and attitudes, enabling them to achieve critical and methodological instruments to deal with the general History of Europe.

The study course was created to offer for the students an opportunity to be involved in a direct immersive experience of knowledge of the past focusing on the roots of values inspiring the European Union.

The course is coordinated by Professor Renata Salvarani with the support of Elena Lecci of the International Relations Office of the UER. The University partners are: Catholic University of Croatia, Zagreb, University of Murcia, UCAM, UCV, Apor Vilmos Catholic College, Hungary, Kardinal Stefan Wyszynski University, Warsaw.

The participants' group is composed of about 40 persons, including students, professors and researchers.

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WELCOME TO THE NEW UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

Severine Vermeire *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*

KU Leuven welcomes new rector.

Professor Severine Vermeire has officially started as KU Leuven's new rector. From 1 August, she and her team of seven new vice rectors are at the helm of the university's management and strategy.

Prof. Vermeire is a specialist in gastroenterology and has been teaching since 2005 at KU Leuven's Faculty of Medicine. Since 2020, she has served as research coordinator of KU Leuven's Biomedical Sciences Group. Read more about Rector Severine Vermeire and her team [here](#).



Fr. Joseph Moukarzel *Holy Spirit University of Kaslik*

Fr. Joseph Moukarzel is President of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) where he has advanced, since 2001, the University's academic and cultural mission. He holds a BA in Theology and an MA in Philosophy from USEK, and a PhD in History from Sorbonne University–Paris IV. A full professor of History since 2021, he also teaches at the Pontifical School of Theology and the Department of Sacred Art and has served on the University Council since 2001. He has led key heritage units as University Librarian, Director of the USEK Archaeological Museum, and Head of the Phoenix Center for Lebanese Studies, which he has developed into national references for preservation and research. His publications span Lebanese history, manuscript heritage, Syriac and Garshuni studies, Christian–Muslim relations, and monastic traditions. He is a member of the French National Centre for Scientific Research, the Société d'Études Syriaques, and other international bodies.

COMILLAS: UNA UNIVERSIDAD JESUITA, SOCIAL E INNOVADORA

La Universidad Pontificia Comillas, la universidad de la Compañía de Jesús en Madrid (España), afronta el futuro con una visión clara y comprometida: ser una universidad jesuita, social, innovadora y sostenible. Esta declaración no es solo un lema, sino el eje vertebrador de su nuevo Plan Estratégico, que proyecta su identidad hacia los desafíos del siglo XXI.

Fundada en 1890 por la Compañía de Jesús, Comillas ha sido siempre una institución singular en el panorama universitario español. Su misión se basa en una educación integral, centrada en la persona, el discernimiento ético y el compromiso con la justicia social. Esta identidad ignaciana se traduce en una comunidad académica que forma líderes con conciencia global y vocación transformadora.

Comillas ha sido también pionera en el sistema universitario español: fue la primera universidad en ofrecer dobles grados, y ha liderado la introducción de titulaciones innovadoras como el Grado en Relaciones Internacionales o el Grado en Ingeniería Matemática e Inteligencia Artificial, anticipándose a las demandas sociales y profesionales del futuro.

Una estrategia para transformar

El nuevo Plan Estratégico 2025-2030 articula la acción de la universidad en torno a cuatro pilares: identidad jesuita, compromiso social, innovación educativa y sostenibilidad. Esta hoja de ruta impulsa una universidad más abierta, digital, inclusiva y conectada con su entorno. Entre sus prioridades destacan la transformación pedagógica, la investi-

gación con impacto social, la internacionalización y la sostenibilidad como principio transversal. Todo ello desde una perspectiva humanista que sitúa a las personas y al planeta en el centro.



Una universidad con impacto

Comillas cuenta con más de 16.000 estudiantes matriculados y una oferta académica de más de 145 titulaciones de grado y posgrado, que abarcan desde la ingeniería, el derecho y la empresa hasta las ciencias sociales, la salud y la teología. La dimensión internacional es uno de sus sellos distintivos: mantiene más de 800 convenios con universidades de todo el mundo, y cada año recibe a más de 3.400 estudiantes internacionales.

Ser una universidad jesuita, social e innovadora no es solo una aspiración: es una responsabilidad. Comillas asume este reto con esperanza, convencida de que la educación es una herramienta poderosa para construir un mundo más justo, humano y sostenible. Su nuevo plan estratégico es una invitación a toda la comunidad universitaria a ser parte activa de esta transformación.



COMILLAS: A JESUIT, SOCIAL AND INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITY

Comillas Pontifical University, the Jesuit university in Madrid (Spain), faces the future with a clear and committed vision: to be a Jesuit, social, innovative, and sustainable university. This is not merely a motto, but the guiding principle of its new Strategic Plan, which projects its identity toward the challenges of the 21st century.

Founded in 1890 by the Society of Jesus, Comillas has always been a distinctive institution within the Spanish higher education landscape. Its mission is rooted in holistic education, personal development, ethical discernment, and a strong commitment to social justice. This Ignatian identity is embodied in an academic community that forms leaders with a global conscience and a transformative vocation.

Comillas has also been a pioneer in the Spanish university system: it was the first university to offer double degrees, and has led the way in introducing innovative programs such as the Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and the Bachelor's Degree in Mathematical Engineering and Artificial Intelligence, anticipating future social and professional demands.

A Strategy for Transformation

The new 2025–2028 Strategic Plan structures the university's action around four pillars: Jesuit identity, social commitment, educational innovation, and sustainability. This roadmap promotes a more open, digital, inclusive, and socially engaged university. Its priorities include pedagogical trans-



sformation, socially impactful research, internationalization, and sustainability as a cross-cutting principle. All of this is approached from a humanistic perspective that places people and the planet at the center.

A University with Impact

Comillas has over 16,000 enrolled students and offers more than 145 undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs, covering fields such as engineering, law, business, social sciences, health, and theology. Its international dimension is one of its hallmarks: the university has over 800 agreements with institutions around the world and welcomes more than 3,400 international students each year.

Being a Jesuit, social, and innovative university is not just an aspiration — it is a responsibility. Comillas embraces this challenge with hope, convinced that education is a powerful tool for building a more just, humane, and sustainable world. Its new strategic plan is an invitation to the entire university community to take an active role in this transformation.

6TH FUCE SUMMER SCHOOL

Reclaims the public space from a humanist perspective in response to rising populism

by Barbara Segaert, Academic Programme Coordinator,
FUCE Summer School

The summer school of 2025 (June 30 – July 4) in Lille, France, investigated the wicked problems populism engenders: how it reconceptualizes the notions of the people and the public space and how it transforms the model of liberal democracy (from deliberation to identity politics, from civil conversation to collective identification and homogeneous belonging).

It looked into the pitfalls this produces: stigmatization of elite and minorities, loss of pluralism, danger of authoritarian solutions through processes of digitalization, refuting expert knowledge (leading to fictitious interpretations, open to manipulation), appropriating ideologies and value reference systems taken out of context and unmediated direct political legitimization.

From a humanist perspective the way forward was sought in the respect for pluralism, the embodiment of a common humanity and grounded citizenship and this in reply to Pope Francis' warning that a lack of concern for the vulnerable can hide behind a populism that exploits them demagogically for its own purposes, or a liberalism that serves the economic interests of the powerful. In both cases, it becomes difficult to envisage an open world that makes room for everyone, including the most vulnerable, and shows respect for different cultures.

The participants engaged with these issues in morning classes with their tutors, in an evening lecture with experts in law and politics, in a public panel with a selection of students sharing their experiences, in a simulation exercise in political argumentation and in visiting the EU-Parliament and the House of European History. They were first introduced to the topic and to each other in an interactive webinar preceding the summer school.

They formulated their thoughts in an individual portfolio and exchanged ideas with their peers in after-

noon workshops. This was crystallized in a collective presentation at the end of the week. They were triggered to use their imagination and describe their emotions in writing up a fictitious story about discovering others through (inner) travel, to experience how storytelling allows us to change our perspective and understand others.

The encounter was enriched by the individual background of the 30 participants from Eastern and Western European countries and Lebanon, engaged in different disciplines, from law, economy and political studies, over philosophical, social and cultural studies, to engineering, biochemistry and health studies.

In total the summer school has by now, with this sixth edition, serviced nearly 150 bachelor students of over 30 member universities of the FUCE-network. It has found a firm organizational basis at the Catholic University of Lille, which is host to the second cycle of summer schools, following LUMSA university of Rome.

The summer school reached its purpose in sensitizing young people for European values and how they are being challenged by contemporary developments, while strengthening them in their agency to partake in the ongoing construction of a more humanist society. This is evident from their





personal appraisal of the programme and the way it impacts them.

Here are some of their reflections on how they experienced the week:

This programme was a unique opportunity to explore some of the most pressing issues facing Europe today — from populism and identity to digital democracy — in a truly international and intellectually engaging environment. The combination of academic insight, personal reflection, and institutional visits made it an unforgettable learning experience.

The summer school helped me see how modern populist movements challenge democratic values, often by exploiting digital platforms and disintermediating traditional media. I have an insight into how technology reshapes political communication

and collective identity. It was also interesting to examine the role of education and media literacy in strengthening democratic resilience.

I initially joined with the intention of broadening my academic perspective on Europe and human rights, but I gained so much more: a deep sense of community, renewed hope in collective action, and personal growth. It pushed me to think more critically, speak more confidently and connect authentically with others from diverse backgrounds. It's an experience that will continue to shape how I move forward personally and professionally.

I learned that dialogue across differences is not only possible but essential, and that hope must be rooted in action. The programme challenged me to rethink the meaning of solidarity and what it means to be part of a shared future.

I learned that European humanism is not just a historical concept, but a living, evolving response to the ethical, social, and political challenges of our time. I now understand the importance of collective memory, intercultural dialogue and civic responsibility in shaping a united Europe. I plan to engage more actively in promoting values of solidarity, integration, and human dignity in my life and work.



ECOPOSS 2025: A Journey into the Future

France

From October 9 to 12, 2025, the Université Catholique de Lille will host **ECOPOSS 2025**, the second edition of its Festival of the Future and the grand finale of its 150th anniversary celebration. The event will present a creative fusion of science, arts, literature, and play - designed for participants of all ages. More than a hundred immersive activities will be featured, including workshops such as "Destination 2079: Sustainable Future," interactive games, and nature-inspired expositions. The **Book Fair** will gather over 80 authors (novelists, scientists, and cartoonists) who will engage with the public through debates, readings, and book signings. A series of talks will explore major themes such as redefining wealth, global power shifts by 2050, and sustainable travel for the future. The program will also include festive performances, including 150 Years in Light musical comedy and a participatory choreographic ball, celebrating imagination and collective storytelling.

www.univ-catholille.fr/ecoposs

L'UCLY à l'heure québécoise!

France



L'université catholique de Lyon a de nouveau remporté un projet Erasmus+ destiné à financer de nombreuses mobilités avec l'université Laval basée au Québec. Cette bourse va permettre, durant 3 ans, aux participants de vivre une expérience de mobilité unique outre atlantique en lettres, philosophie et théologie.

Bien plus qu'un financement européen, ce projet sera pour l'UCLy l'occasion de consolider ses liens avec la principale université francophone de l'Amérique du Nord mais également de travailler

au bien être étudiant grâce au rapprochement des services « vie et expérience étudiante » de l'UCLy et d'ULaval dont l'expérience en la matière est reconnue.

Il sera également possible de déployer des projets communs, en recherche et en diplomation, de développer un parcours autour des Valeurs européennes et canadiennes que chaque participant devra emprunter avant ou pendant son séjour.

Cette entente rejoint la déjà riche coopération culturelle, scientifique et institutionnelle entre la France et le Québec.



Reorganization of International Governance at Université Catholique de Lille

France

The Université Catholique de Lille is entering a new phase in its strategy with a reorganization designed to strengthen international cooperation. **Patrick Scaufaire** has been re-elected as President-Rector, continuing to guide the University with a vision rooted in academic excellence and social responsibility. To reinforce international engagement, **Professor Ioannis Panoussis** has been appointed Vice-President/Vice-Rector for International Development, bringing his expertise in international and European law to expand global partnerships. Following the departure of **Anne-Marie Michel**, who shaped the University's international policy for nearly three decades, **Audrey Vanpeperstraete** has taken on the role of Operational Director of International Relations. She has restructured the office into four dedicated sections - Cooperation, International Programs, International Strategy, and International Events and Attractiveness - creating a clearer, more dynamic framework for collaboration. This renewed gover-

nance demonstrates the University's commitment to working closely with partners worldwide to develop innovative and impactful initiatives.

www.univ-catholille.fr/en/governance-and-organization



**Université
Catholique
de Lille** 1875

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University Becomes the First Georgian Member of ELPIS

Georgia

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University has become the first Georgian higher education institution to join one of Europe's most prestigious academic networks - **ELPIS** (European Law Faculties Network).

ELPIS brings together leading law faculties across Europe that share a commitment to advancing legal education, fostering research, and promoting academic mobility. The network focuses primarily on the study of European legal systems and the international exchange of knowledge. Its mission is to deepen cooperation among universities, encourage innovative educational initiatives, and establish new standards for excellence in higher legal education.



Membership in ELPIS is more than an international recognition for the University - it represents a gateway to new opportunities for students, faculty, and the broader academic community.

For students, it means greater access to the European academic space, participation in exchange programs, summer schools, and moot court competitions, as well as collaboration with international academic teams to enhance their expertise in law. For faculty, it offers opportunities to develop new educational modules, deliver joint courses, engage in collaborative research, attend international conferences, and benefit from new platforms for knowledge exchange.

In 2027, Georgia will stand out even more prominently on the map of legal education when Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University hosts one of the network's key events - the Annual Meeting and Conference, further underlining the university's growing role in the international academic legal community.

By joining ELPIS, Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University is actively integrating into Europe's academic sphere, opening new perspectives for its students, faculty, and, ultimately, the Georgian legal landscape.



Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani
UNIVERSITY

A Historic Beginning: USEK's First Inauguration Day

Lebanon

For the first time in its history, the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) will host an Inauguration Day, a landmark event marking the beginning of the President's tenure and setting the tone for the University's future. On October 15, distinguished guests, faculty, students, partners, and friends will gather for a celebration that blends heritage with innovation.

More than a ceremony, Inauguration Day will reaffirm USEK's values, vision, and community spirit, while unveiling Fr. Prof. Joseph Moukarzel's strategic road-

map for the years ahead. A milestone that bridges past, present, and future, charting a path that will continue to inspire.

Upcoming Highlights

- Podcast series hosting public figures and high-profile alumni
- Association of Arab Universities Workshop
- International Conference: War and Peace Through the Lens of Women: From Struggle to Transformation
- SEEDS by ZAKA Launch: Empowering teachers to integrate AI
- International Educational Days



25th anniversary of the Catholic University in Ružomberok Slovakia

The Catholic University in Ružomberok is celebrating its 25th anniversary these days. The only Catholic university in Slovakia has experienced significant growth over the past 25 years. The university focuses on humanities and pedagogical



studies and offers more than 100 study programs, including inter-faculty combinations.

In domestic rankings, it is regularly ranked among the best universities in Slovakia. It is recognized for its quality in international rankings.

The current life of the university is shaped by the project of internationalization of the internal environment, with which the university wants to attract students and researchers from an international environment to its institution.

The university is also successful in obtaining external resources for development. An example is the current grant for the construction of one of the most modern simulation centers for healthcare professionals in Slovakia, "Skill Care", for 10 million euros.

The celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the university's founding will consist of an international conference on the importance of Catholic education and a concert on September 24, and a Veni Sancte Mass, an academic community assembly, and a youth party will take place on September 25.



Accreditation from the WSCUC of CEU San Pablo University Spain

CEU San Pablo University is the first Spanish and second European university to obtain **accreditation** from the [WASC Senior College and University Commission \(WSCUC\)](#), one of the most demanding certification agencies, officially validated by the U.S. Department of Education and the [Council for Higher Education Accreditation \(CHEA\)](#), and associated with high-quality, innovative, international, and technologically advanced universities.

In its evaluation, the agency highlighted: the commitment to transparency; financial soundness; the focus on student employability; the sense of community and family among campus members; student care, support for faculty professional development, and the promotion of academic research.

This achievement places CEU San Pablo University in a position of international leadership as the **first institution in the European Union that, not being an “American University”, has achieved this recognition.**



Loyola University Achieves Prestigious AACSB Accreditation

Spain

The Faculty of Economic and Business Sciences at Loyola University has earned the prestigious AACSB accreditation, becoming the only faculty in Andalusia to hold this distinction. Granted by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, this recognition is awarded to fewer than 6% of business schools worldwide, certifying academic excellence, research quality, and social impact.

Loyola was commended for its innovative curriculum, international outlook, and commitment to Jesuit values, fostering leaders dedicated to justice and social transformation. AACSB Executive Vice President Stephanie M. Bryant congratulated Rector Fabio Gómez-Estern, Dean Pilar Castro, and the university community, highlighting their dedication to continuous improvement.



Dean Castro stressed that the accreditation is both an honour and a responsibility, ensuring high standards in teaching, research, and service. It also strengthens students' global career prospects by enhancing the value of degrees such as Business Administration, Business Data & Analytics, MBA, and Management Masters.



Ukrainian Catholic University at NATO ICMCIS 2025

Ukraine

At NATO ICMCIS 2025, the largest scientific conference on military communications and information technology systems, the Ministry of Defence's Innovation Center successfully defended a scientific paper on artificial intelligence (AI) in combat systems. In collaboration with the Ukrainian Catholic University, the Innovation Center described in its paper how AI autonomously learns to process data from UAVs in real time.

This technology enables effective detection and tracking of military vehicles and equipment even with low-quality imagery from inexpensive drones, opening new horizons in tactical reconnaissance and situational awareness.

The paper showcased interim stages of the technology's development as of 2024. The paper was selected for presentation at the conference from more than 90 global submissions, after blind peer review



by three independent experts. It was ranked among the top 10 works submitted to ICMCIS 2025. Following the conference, it will be published in IEEE Xplore, an internationally recognized digital repository and a leading source in engineering and technology.



Towards child-centred justice

Spain

Experts and young people from all over the world gathered at Comillas Pontifical University for the 5th World Congress on Justice with Children



COMILLAS
UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA
ICAI ICADE CIHS

Comillas Pontifical University hosted the 5th World Congress on Justice for Children, gathering over 750 in-person attendees, thousands online, and more than 60 satellite events worldwide. Under the theme “Moving towards Child-Centred Justice”, the congress focused on preventing and responding to violence against children in justice systems. Key topics included institutional violence, climate and digital justice, mental health, disability, and justice in conflict zones. Discussions also addressed children’s rights in relation to AI, sexual violence, and the protection of child victims and witnesses. The event concluded with the **Madrid Global Declaration**, offering strategic recommendations to advance SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda. Myriam Cabrera, Director of the Chair in Children’s Rights at Comillas, highlighted the congress’s role in fostering awareness and collaboration. Vice-Rector Dolores Carrillo emphasized the importance of recognizing children as rights holders with active voices. The event featured prominent national and

international figures, reinforcing Comillas’ leadership in child rights advocacy.



La UCV, primera universidad española en integrarse en la red educativa de acción climática CANIE

Spain

La Universidad Católica de Valencia (UCV) ha formalizado su incorporación a la red internacional Climate Action Network for International Educators (CANIE), integrada por más de 80 organizaciones académicas y asociaciones de todo el mundo. Esta adhesión refuerza el compromiso firme de la UCV con la sostenibilidad y responde al objetivo de convertir la acción climática en un principio transversal plenamente integrado en la vida diaria de la institución.

Con esta incorporación, la UCV se convierte en la primera universidad española en sumarse a esta red internacional de centros de educación superior que promueven un enfoque activo frente al cambio climático, integrando esta prioridad en decisiones estratégicas, formación, investigación, gestión presupuestaria, comunicación y en el desarrollo de experiencias internacionales. Según apunta Elena Floristán, vicerrectora de Estrategia, Desarrollo Sostenible e Internacionalización, “queremos que la acción climática deje de ser solo un objetivo para convertirse en parte esencial de nuestras decisiones. Firmar el CANIE Accord nos permite avanzar en este sentido”.



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