



European university college Association

# Charter of principles

European Affairs Made in Europe

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## INTRODUCTION (I)

### HISTORICAL ROOTS

University colleges have strong roots in Europe. Their individual stories are different, but they have a common objective.

Their creation dates back to an ancient medieval tradition from the beginning of the twelfth century.

At that point in time, the first university colleges were born, and so, they belong to the History of European universities, and also partially to that of modern Western culture.

### PURPOSE OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGES

The main objective of university colleges is to foster social promotion based on merit and to provide specific support to students, helping them during their time at university and beyond by preparing them for the job market.

University colleges offer students a whole range of high-quality residences. They help students obtain better results from their advanced studies through various complementary and supplementary programs (scientific, vocational, academic, etc) and tutoring activities to widen their university education.





## INTRODUCTION (II)

### EUCA IS BORN

The signing of the *Memorandum of understanding* between the “Conferenza dei Collegi universitari italiani (CCU)” and the Spanish “Consejo de Colegios Mayores” (CCM) in September 2005 was the **first official act of EuCA** (European University College Association) and has allowed these two national associations of colleges to set up their cooperation.

This Memorandum has then been extended in May 2006 by a Letter of Intent between the CCU and the Warsaw University of Technology (WUT), and by the Congress “I Collegi universitari per una cittadinanza europea : esperienze a confronto” (July 2006), with the participation of the Netherhall Educational Association (NEA) which in May 2007 signed the Letter of Intent with the intention of becoming member of EUCA.

### The main objectives are:

- 1 To promote cooperation agreements among international organizations.
- 2 To foster the internationalization of national university systems following the scope of the “Process of Bologna” for the construction of a European Space of Higher Education by 2010.

**These agreements have marked the beginning of the creation of a trans-European network.**



## IDENTIFICATION

University colleges are university centers which maintain a close relationship with the academic world. They not only offer high-quality services but also represent an **added value to the students in terms of the formational, tutoring and vocational guidance opportunities** offered to them. They have an educational project, run in close cooperation with university teaching staff and highly personalised.

All this is helped by private and common spaces, training and leisure facilities, which encourage social interaction, teamwork and sense of responsibility in the students – elements which are of great use for later social and working life.

**Thus, university colleges are highly privileged interdisciplinary and multicultural spaces for university formation where students can grow and learn to carry out their responsibilities in life. They are a kind of “community of knowledge”.**





## OBJECTIVES

The university colleges members of EucA have the following objectives.

- 1 Promoting **mutual awareness among existing colleges** and fostering the spread of the **college model** in cooperation with the organizations proposed by the European Union.
- 2 Laying out propositions to be submitted to the institutions of the European Union and to legislative, administrative and academic organizations in order to achieve a **wider acknowledgement** and to enhance the role of university colleges within University.
- 3 Developing projects for the promotion of the **European educational system** at the international level.
- 4 Improving the **exchange programmes** and student and staff mobility by widening the community programmes within the framework of a European Space of Formation.
- 5 Organizing congresses and signing **agreements between organizations** representing the academic, professional and business world, including the third sector.
- 6 Encouraging, especially through students, **active European citizenship** capable of promoting **intercultural dialogue**.



