

# Conference on Higher Education Intercultural Dialogue and Higher Education

9 June 2008, Portorož, Slovenia

## Organized by:

- Center EMUNI
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Slovenia
- EuroMed Permanent University Forum - EPUF

## Opening speeches:

- Ms. Mojca Kucler Dolinar, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Slovenia
- Prof. Dr. Yusuf Zlya Ozcan, President of The Council of Higher Education, Turkey
- Prof. Dr. Francesc Xavier Grau Vidal, President of Euromed Permanent University Forum (EPUF) and Rector of Rovira i Virgili University, Spain

## Conference Objectives

The objective of conference is to exchange ideas, experiences, related with the theme of the conference, identify difficulties and set out propositions on how should the international University contribute to the dialogue between cultures. Governments' agreement. The Conference will have two panels:

- General View - Internationalization of Higher Education
- Good Practices - Challenges for Scholars in Multicultural Societies

The aim of the Conference is to debate and explore the role of higher education as a key element for human and social development and to propose new routes for the interchange between higher education institutions in Euro-Mediterranean area. What kind of knowledge, what universities, what kind of educational policies and what general political vision do we need to contribute more to such a development?

Education is seen as an opportunity to improve intercultural, ethnic and religion relations and to help students gain the knowledge and competencies necessary for today's challenges. Perspectives on knowledge itself and on the role of universities, dominates current political debates in Euro-Mediterranean, as we now celebrate European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and Euro-Mediterranean Year of Dialogue between Cultures. The social commitment of knowledge should be combined with a political commitment to promote and support exchanges and cooperation on different levels and in every direction. This would give to Euro-Mediterranean area a global power, based on understanding, respect and mutual development.

The Conference aims to be a good opportunity to discuss spontaneously both general views and practical achievements.

## Topics to be discussed:

- Intercultural dialogue and education: different perspectives & common goals
- Added value of intercultural education
- Pursuing values through education: serving the common good
- Importance of Euro-Mediterranean scholastic cooperation: experience & vision
- Searching for a new routes of cooperation within Euro-Mediterranean area: ideas for the future
- Euro-Mediterranean University: objectives and opportunities
- Intercultural competencies in Higher Education
- Traditional values versus modernization

- Constructive remarks on the role of EU and UNESCO
- When dialogue and tolerance is not enough: problems and solutions
- Challenges for teachers/scholars in multicultural societies
- Cultures, languages and religions in pedagogical studies

## Programme

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*Moderator: Prof. Dr. Joseph Mifsud, Higher Education Expert, appointed by Center EMUNI and Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Slovenia*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Panel: General View - Internationalization of Higher Education

#### Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Mongi Bousnina, General Director of ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization), Tunisia
- Prof. Dr. Ivan Rozman, Rector of University of Maribor, Slovenia
- Prof. Dr. Abdouli Touhami, President of MOPS(Canada-Norways)

*Moderator: Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Giliberti, Rectors Delegate, University of Urbino, Italy*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: Good Practices - Challenges for Scholars in Multicultural Societies

#### Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Driss Ouaouicha, Executive Officer of The Scholar Ship and former Vice President for academic affairs at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco
- Prof. Dr. Annase Bouhlal, Polytechnic University of Applied Sciences, Director of MEDA Institute, Finland
- Prof. Dr. Cosimo Notarstefano, CMU (Community of Mediterranean Universities), Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Polo EuroMed, Italy

*Moderator: Prof. Dr. Joseph Shevel, President of the Galilee College, Israel*