



“Our European University will provide students with the skills they need to be highly employable and will offer truly European career paths to all members of society. In doing so, the YUFE European University will strengthen our collective identity and contribute to a more cohesive European society.”

The foundations for this European University will be laid in the next three years.

The University of Cyprus participates in the university alliance YUFE with 7 other European universities

The Rector of the University of Cyprus Professor Tasos Christofides said: "European universities, is the future of higher education. The YUFE team was inspired by Europe's vision for creation and development through the exchange of visions and knowledge, through the synthesis of ideas, unity and investment in education. As a team, as a European university, we want to contribute to the foundation of a better tomorrow, we dare to propose the future of European Higher Education. "

### **The YUFE vision**

#### **Studying throughout Europe**

The YUFE European University will enable prospective students to compile their curricula, choosing from programmes offered at each of the eight YUFE universities. To allow access to all systems and facilities of these universities, the alliance will introduce a YUFE student card, valid at all participating universities. The official language of YUFE study programmes is English, but students who spend a period at a university in another country are encouraged and supported to learn the language of their host country. When they have successfully completed their studies, students receive a European diploma that will be valid anywhere in Europe. The diploma will not only acknowledge students' academic performance, but also acknowledge their effort in mobility, language learning, professional training, job shadowing and community volunteering.

#### **Feeling at home in the YUFE cities**

To guarantee accessibility for as many students as possible, YUFE is preparing to set up a virtual European campus. Part-time students or interested citizens who want to follow a single virtual or physical course can also make use of the YUFE offer. For full-time students studying at one of the partner universities elsewhere in Europe, YUFE will develop housing solutions that facilitate cultural exchange, mutual support and integration with the local community. For example, an option YUFE is considering is furnishing special homes where students can live for free during their stay and in close proximity with local residents. They will be given the opportunity to contribute to the community in their neighbourhood, and to foster a culture of mutual support in all YUFE cities and communities. YUFE students will be immediately immersed in the local and regional society and will thus be the catalyst for further European integration.

#### **Regional focus and impact**

The YUFE programme itself pays a lot of attention to the specific regions in which the eight YUFE universities are located. When it comes to internships, for example, every university will work together with

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local authorities, the business community and other organisations. These collaborations are based on challenges that are of great importance to the YUFE regions. In Limburg, for example, the region of the coordinating institution Maastricht University, the [Brightlands](#) ecosystem will be an excellent setting to implement the joint YUFE approach. In Cyprus, students will contribute to the development of more green, efficient and sustainable public transport in the capital Nicosia. Dr Daniela Trani and Jan Hupkens, coordinators of the YUFE-alliance, said: “In this way, YUFE education provides a European mind-set for students, enabling them to view matters from different perspectives and allows the various regions and their residents to benefit from this exchange of knowledge across Europe.”

### **European integration**

Professor Paul said: “The selection of the YUFE proposal represents an important milestone for our alliance and we are keen to contribute to a unique momentum in European higher education.

The Rector of the University of Cyprus, Professor Tasos Christofides stated that the new European University YUFE has an ambitious and pioneering mission in Europe: It aims at promoting common European values and strengthening the European identity by bringing together a new generation of Europeans who can work together and work in different European and global cultures in different languages across borders, fields and disciplines. *“The establishment of a European education area will enable EU Member States to do more, more quickly, to increase the quality, competitiveness and integration of their education and training systems. We are proud of the growing international recognition of the University of Cyprus, and by joining the YUFE consortium, the University contributes significantly in the transformation of Cyprus in an international center for quality higher education”*, the Rector stressed.

### **Members**

The YUFE alliance is geographically diverse and includes universities, cities and companies.

#### **YUFE full partners are:**

Maastricht University (coordinator) - Netherlands

Carlos III University of Madrid - Spain

University of Antwerp - Belgium

University of Bremen - Germany

University of Cyprus - Cyprus

University of Eastern Finland

University of Essex - United Kingdom

University of Rome Tor Vergata - Italy

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**YUFE associated partners are:**

European Entrepreneurs CMA-PME

Kiron Open Higher Education

Nicolaus Copernicus University of Torún - Poland

The Adecco Group France

The Educational Testing Service Global

The University of Rijeka – Croatia

**About YUFE**

The [Young Universities for the Future of Europe \(YUFE\) alliance](#) is a major strategic partnership established between eight young research-intensive universities from as many European countries. The YUFE alliance, together with its six associate partners, aims at bringing a radical change in European higher education by establishing itself as the leading model of a young, student-centred, non-elitist, open and inclusive European University. A unique ecosystem linking universities to communities, YUFE will be based on cooperation between higher education institutions, the public and private sector, and citizens across Europe.

For more information visit: [www.yufe.eu](http://www.yufe.eu)

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**End of announcement**

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