

# Press Release



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## One of the first European Universities, the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) alliance, met at the University of Cyprus



The University of Cyprus (UCY) had the honor to host the YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe) Alliance partners meeting; it marks a dynamic alliance of young European universities (under the age of 50) aspiring to collaborate closely to contribute to the future of education, while fostering strong university synergies across Europe. The launch event was held on October 11, 2019, in the presence of YUFE partners and collaborators. It introduced this exciting initiative to the academic community as well as the general public. Team meetings in preparation for the official launch of the project next December took place the day before.

The YUFE consortium, consisting of 8 European Universities, among them UCY, was selected by the European Commission last June in order to bring about the implementation of a new European University model. It is worth noting that the consortium achieved-during the evaluation- the highest score amongst all proposals by the European Commission.

Addressing the open plenary YUFE session **Rector Professor Tasos Christofides** stressed the significance of this initiative, in view of the impact of placing internationalization in the heart of higher education, research and innovation: *"Internationalization is the future of education, of research and innovation. It is the key for fostering creativity and entrepreneurship through the transfer and exchange of knowledge. I am confident that YUFE will transform and evolve our universities' for the better!"*. The Rector noted that enthusiasm, determination, and individual successes, as well as the young age demographic of the participating partners can lead to considerable achievements towards the consortium's efforts to establish an innovative model European University.





After thanking UCY for its hospitality the **President of the YUFE Consortium and President of the University of Maastricht, Professor Martin Paul**, identified UCY as a fantastic partner in the consortium, while emphasizing the role of students from the cooperating universities, as having contributed greatly to the shaping of this proposal. He went on to highlight the unique, inclusive nature of YUFE, adding that, *"we have put together a group with no 'usual suspects' and that makes us stand out"*.

On behalf of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, the **Director of Higher Education Dr Terpsa Constantinidou** noted that YUFE alliance marks a major and decisive step towards the realization of the vision of a common European higher education area. The Director also praised the commitment of UCY in its participation in the consortium, which is another testament of its dedication to academic excellence.

The **European Commission's Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Ms. Themis Christofidou**, congratulated the YUFE consortium as a pioneer in paving the way for the creation of other European universities. She also referred to the need for stronger financial state funding being extended to academic institutions in order to support the cause, so that they achieve the goals they have set for a more humane, coherent, and inclusive Europe. She went on to welcome the consortium's focus on promoting a European identity, the wellbeing of all EU citizens, the advantages of virtual reality, emphasizing once more the viability and significance of the project.



**Dr. Daniela Trani, YUFE Managing Director** delivered an informative presentation on the YUFE consortium, followed by short addresses by student representatives Asha Ali, Kostas Georgiades and Amalia Chrysostomou, from the universities of Essex, Maastricht, and Cyprus respectively.



The students expressed their enthusiasm and drive for active participation and involvement in the project, as their role has been and will largely be, critical in the establishment and function of the initiative. Mobility, dialogue, exchange of experiences and knowledge, democracy, sustainability and ecology were some of the key principles on which YUFE students envision the new European University.

Click [here](#) to watch the video of the YUFE Plenary Session

## **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

### **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.

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**End of announcement**

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