

World Higher Education Week

Barcelona, 16-22 May 2022



Seminar

Cities and universities: Creating alliances for the social and economic progress of the territory

17th may 2022, 4.30 pm to 6.45 pm (CEST)

Aula 1, Caixaforum Barcelona

In collaboration with:



Introduction

We are witnessing a new global era, with realities as economic globalisation, climate emergency, changes and shortcomings in the welfare state, the consolidation of knowledge as a critical factor for advancement, the new and old inequalities the work's world transformation, the rise of populism and the crisis of liberal democracy or the impact of new technologies and digitization. All these requires rethinking the organization of collective affairs and building appropriate responses to new demands and social needs, where knowledge and interrelationships between actors emerge as critical factors.

In this context, cities and regions are becoming, more than ever, decisive scenarios for driving these new realities in the best possible direction, creating dynamic sustainable growth addressed at people's well-being. Regions and cities are the natural places where knowledge is created and social relationships are linked, in environments characterised by a multiplicity of agents that require shared networking work. In turn, as we already know, the city and the region represent physical, human and social places that translate global challenges into local responses.

Both the public institutions of the local-regional environment and the institutions that create and disseminate knowledge (universities, research centres, mixed institutes, laboratories and factories for social innovation and cultural creation) are identified as key actors, 'hinge parties'.

There are many spaces where universities and the cities/regions interact: education, applied research, innovation, technology transfer, business start-up and the promotion of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, the promotion of a critical and committed citizenship, cultural vitality, urban development, regional competitiveness, community development, internationalisation and social responsibility.

From the perspective of university and scientific policy, in recent years we have witnessed a development of new paradigms that advocate for more open, interconnected and socially committed institutions: the civic university, social and community engagement, responsible research and innovation, co-creation, citizen science and open science. Paradigms that guide universities towards their global commitment with the planetary and humanity challenges (expressed over the past few years in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals) and at the same time their engagement to cities, regions and citizens.

This seminar, organized by Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP), Barcelona City Council and the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE Spanish Universities by its Spanish abbreviation), with the collaboration of Ministry of Research and Universities (Government of Catalonia), aims to open a fruitful dialogue between municipal/regional institutions and universities. A dialogue that facilitates shared work scenarios and collaborative projects. Interrelationships, eventually, that allow social progress, cultural vitality and sustainable economic development.

Programme

4.30 pm - 4.40 pm

Opening of the Seminar. Welcome speech

- **Sr. Jaume Puy**, Rector of the Universitat de Lleida and president of ACUP
- **Mr. José M. Sanz**, Vice-President of CRUE and former Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

4.40 pm – 5.40 pm

Panel debate. Universities, key institutions for the social, economic and cultural advancement of the territory. How can city-university synergies be strengthened?

(Includes open floor session)

- **Mr Jordi Martí**, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Education, Science and Community at Barcelona City Council
- **Mrs Gemma Geis**, Minister of Research and Universities
- **Mr Daniel Crespo**, Rector of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
- **Sr. Joan Subirats**, Minister for Universities of the Spanish Government

Chair: Mr Màrius Martínez, Vice-rector for International Relations of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

5.40 pm – 6.40 pm

Panel debate. Local policies on higher education, research and innovation. Assessing impacts and strengthening the knowledge society

(Includes open floor session)

- **Mrs Elisabeth Lehec**, Head of the interface unit City/research on transition, Direction of Climate and Ecological Transition, City of Paris
- **Mr Raffaele Laudani**, Deputy Mayor for Urban Planning, Universities and Research Centers, special projects “City of Knowledge” and “Democratic Memory”, Comune di Bologna
- **Mr Francesc Subirada**, Director of the UPF Ciutadella of Knowledge project of Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- **Mrs Silvia Llach**, Vice-rector for Territory and Social Commitment

Chair: Mrs Júlia Miralles, Delegate for Science and Universities of Barcelona City Council

6.40 pm – 6.45 pm

Conclusions and close

- **Mr Josep M. Vilalta**, Executive Secretary of ACUP

Inscription:

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