



Cyprus Declaration

A call for reviving a shared European identity

During a recent meeting, held in Nicosia and in light of the upcoming European elections, the members of YUFE's Strategic Council expressed their concerns about ongoing political developments, noting a growing apathy towards Europe and opposition to the idea of a shared European identity and values.

It is our duty...

as an Alliance of ten young European universities to play a key role in paving the way towards an egalitarian, open and socially inclusive European future. We are fully committed to educate the next generation of learners, guiding them with European values. To ensure that Europe remains competitive and independent in a globalised world, we cannot risk a European continent being fragmented into small imaginative parts not following the same set of principles. In our daily work, we experience that we are even stronger together – as universities, societies and countries.

YUFE therefore strongly urges...

the revival of a shared European identity centred on democracy and social inclusion, embracing the rich diversity our continent has to offer. We live in an exceptional democracy that ensures an economically and socially safe environment for the generations to come. We simply cannot afford to put this safety net in jeopardy. As a European Universities Alliance and convinced Europeans, we strive to be part of a countermovement to the evolving anti-European sentiments.

To fulfil our societal mission...

not only as a lighthouse for the future of European Higher Education, but also for the future of the European youth, we call on the continued and sustainable support. European universities play a pivotal role in educating their students to be open-minded, highly skilled, prepared for the job market, making them central to a united, peaceful and prosperous Europe. Continuous support will allow us to be a steady base in an unsteady political landscape.

Nicosia, September 2023

Signed by:

Rianne Letschert, President of Maastricht University, and President of the YUFE Alliance

Margarita Kazdagli, President YUFE Student Forum, University of Cyprus

Herman van Goethem, Rector University of Antwerp

Jutta Günther, Rector, University of Bremen

Tasos Christofides, Rector, University of Cyprus

Tapio Määttä, Academic Rector, University of Eastern Finland

Anthony Forster, Vice-Chancellor, University of Essex

Ángel Arias, Rector, University Carlos III of Madrid

Przemysław Nehring, Vice-Rector Education, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Snježana Prijić-Samaržija, Rector of the University of Rijeka

Daniel Mouchard, President, Sorbonne Nouvelle University

Miguel Membrado, Chief Digital Officer, ETS Global

Andreani Karletti, YUFE Student Forum Secretary, University of Cyprus

Maria-Valerie Schegk, Secretary General of YUFE

About YUFE

The Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) is the top-scoring European University Alliance, selected in 2019 and 2022 by the European Commission to develop and implement its pioneering model of a European University. The YUFE Alliance strives to bring about radical change in the Higher Education sector by becoming the leading model of a student-centred, open and inclusive European University based on the cooperation between higher education institutions, public and private sector, and citizens.

In the past years, the YUFE Alliance has started to build the foundations of its European University, and has developed pilots of truly European, student-centred study programs, enhanced European career perspectives for staff, and contributed to solving important European regional challenges.

The Strategic Council of the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) Alliance, is the Alliance' highest decision body and meets regularly to steer the strategic directions and milestones of the network.

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