

The contribution of university to the building of the European spirit

UNIVERSITAS



7-9 February, 2020
CERN, Geneva (CH)

Throughout his history, European conscience has constantly been characterized as a culture of encounter, between a man and other men, between a people and other peoples: in fact Europe itself was born from the encounter between human beings and peoples carrying different cultures.

First, the encounter between Hellenic, Roman and Jewish culture (mediated by Christianity); then the encounter with the cultures of different peoples coming, in successive waves, from the east (the so-called barbarian peoples), the last of which were the Slaves (see the fundamental contribution of Cyril and Methodius); and finally, also the encounter, although many times dramatic, with the Arab and the North African world.

Europe has thus always been a crossroads of peoples and cultures, a space of freedom and encounter: for this reason, it has also been able to create places and structures that respond to the real, different needs of man and society: see the birth of universities and hospitals.

From the 12th century these different dimensions were fading until they disappeared, eventually resulting in the immense tragedies of the two World Wars.

However, after World War II, some politicians of good will decided to rebuild a new Europe that would recover its identity as a space for meeting and freedom for European men and nations.

The existence of Europe depends on the faithfulness to the ideals of the founding fathers, in order to create and guarantee that space of freedom in which we can meet the different answers of meaning.



The university has always been (even in dramatic historical times) and still is a place of freedom and encounter.

In this conference we would like to present experiences from some European universities, in dialogue with academics from different "areas" (north and south, east and west).

The starting point of the discussion will be the challenge posed by some questions we found in a leaflet released by the Communion and Liberation movement during the recent European elections, and that we would like to ask to the speakers, and to all participants as well:

1. **How does the experience that I live reawakens in me a passion for the common good.**
2. **What contribution do I give to the social and political life in the place where I live.**
3. **Where do I see that the founding values of Europe are embodied again in shared experiences.**

Programme

Friday 7 February 2020	arrival at CERN	
	19.30	dinner
	21.00	opening and invited lecture (J. J. Gómez Cadenas); discussion
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Saturday 8 February 2020	8.30	first session: invited speakers and general discussion
	13.00	lunch
	14.30 - 17.30	visiting two main facilities at CERN: a. Alice program; b. Magnet Test Laboratory-SM18)
	18.00 - 19.30	free late afternoon at Ferney Voltaire (20 minut from CERN by bus)
	18.30 - 19.30	Catholic Mass at Ferney-Voltaire village
	19.40	back to CERN
	20.00	dinner
	21.00	cultural event
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Sunday 9 February 2020	8.30 - 12.00	second session: invited speakers and general discussion; concluding remarks
	13.00 lunch	lunch

Speakers

Juan José Gómez Cadenas (<http://dipc.ehu.es/>)

Aleksandr Filonenko

<https://www.tempi.it/meeting-rimini-filonenko-rivoluzione-cristiana-societa-sovietica/>
to be confirmed

Giuseppe Pezzini (<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/classics/people/gp63/>)

Andrea Moro (<https://www.brainforum.it/speaker/andrea-moro/>)

Marija Gabriel (https://it.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marija_Gabriel), *to be confirmed*