

CONFERENCE: UNIVERSITIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Introduction:

The advances in digitalisation and technological change have completely transformed several industries and economic activities and, therefore, our lives as well. Knowledge and skills are waning faster and faster; education can no longer be limited to the first stage of life, and lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling are already parts of the very concept of work. Universities face the challenge of adapting to this new scenario and, at the same time, empower all citizens to cope with this transition successfully and become not only a learning economy, but also a learning society.

16th May 2022

09:00-10:00 **Registration and material.**

10:00-10:20 **Opening of the conference.**

Mr. Joan Subirats Humet, Minister of Universities.

Mr. Joan Guàrdia Olmos, Rector of the University of Barcelona.

Mr. Joaquín Pérez Rey, Secretary of State of Labour and Social Economy, Minister of Labour and Social Economy.

Mr. Juan Romo, President of Crue Spanish Universities and Rector of Carlos III University of Madrid.

Ms. Vanessa Debais-Sainton, Head of the Unit in charge of Higher Education Policies and Programme, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission.

10:20-10:50 **Universities as Lifelong Learning Institutions: a new frontier for higher education?**

Mr. Raúl Valdés Cotera, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.

10:50-11:40 Universities as Lifelong Learning Institutions: Inspiring practices and policies.

Ms. Vanessa Debais-Sainton, Head of the Unit in charge of Higher Education Policies and Programme, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission.

Mr. Simon Roy, Higher Education Policy Team, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Mr. Michael Gaebel, Head of the Higher Education Policy Unit at the European University Association.

Mr. Michael Fung, Executive Director of the Institute for the Future of Education at Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico).

Moderator: Ms. Nancy Anne Konvalinka, Vice-Rector of Academic Coordination and Quality at National University of Distance Education (UNED) and member of the executive committee of Crue-Teaching.

11:40-12:25 The role of universities in lifelong learning in Spain.

Mr. Ángel Pazos Carro, President of Crue' Specialised Network for Learning and Teaching and Rector of the University of Cantabria.

Mr. Gerardo Gutiérrez Ardoy, General Director of the State Public Employment Service (SEPE).

Ms. Marian Alesón, Director of the Permanent University of the University of Alicante.

Mr. Andreu Mas-Colell, Professor Emeritus at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) and former Councilor for Universities of Generalitat de Catalunya.

Moderator: Mr. Andrés Ajo Lázaro, Head of the School and Adult Education Unit, Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE).

12:25-12:30 Closure.

Mr. José Manuel Pingarrón Carrazón, Secretary General of Universities and President of the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE), Ministry of Universities.

Conference facilitator: Mr. Raúl Ramos Lobo, Vice-rector for Internationalisation Policy, University of Barcelona.

SPEAKERS

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE



Mr. Joan Subirats Humet

Minister of Universities. Doctor in Economic Sciences from the University of Barcelona. Professor of Political Science and Administration, Emeritus Professor of Political Science and Administration. Throughout his academic career, he has directed more than fifty doctoral theses.

Founder and researcher at the Institute of Government and Public Policies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. In 2003, he held the Prince of Asturias Chair at Georgetown University (USA).

Researcher and visiting professor at several American and European universities, he has specialised in issues of governance, public management and the analysis of public policies and social exclusion, as well as problems of democratic and technological innovation, civil society and multilevel government. He has conducted extensive research on these issues with European, Latin American and Spanish teams and has published hundreds of articles and chapters in specialised publications.

Between January 2018 and May 2019, he was responsible for the culture area of the Barcelona City Council, and from July 2019 to July 2021 he held the Deputy Mayor's Office for Culture, Education, Science and Community in the same City Council.



Mr. Joan Guàrdia Olmos

Full Professor at the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Barcelona (Spain) has been teaching since 1984 on the topics of the research methodology in psychology. Doctor of Psychology from the same university, he did postgraduate studies in Statistical Data Analysis at the University of Essex (England). During this period, he has participated in more than thirty doctorate courses (national and international), is a visiting professor at various universities and has given more than one hundred seminars in areas of his research activity in European and American universities. His research activity has led him to the direction of more than twenty-five doctoral theses, both in his own university and in others, and to the presentation of more than 300 communications in Congresses and scientific meetings, as well as the publication of more than 40 books and chapters and finally to the generation of more than 280 scientific articles, of which more than 230 in indexed journals and more than 200 in own journals of the Journal Citation Reports. He is currently the coordinator responsible for the Consolidated Research Group (SGR 266) on Quantitative Psychology (www.ub.edu/qpsych) and also for the Consolidated Teaching Innovation Group on Learning Statistics (www.ub.edu/gid-estadistica/). He has held various academic positions in university management both at his university and at other institutions. He is also an evaluator of different calls and programs of various national and international evaluation agencies and indexed journals. Currently Rector of the Universitat de Barcelona.



Mr. Joaquín Pérez Rey

Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy. Doctor of Law and extraordinary doctorate award. Professor of Labour Law and Social Security and director of the Department of Labour Law and Social Work at the University of Castilla-La Mancha. He has carried out research stays at several European universities and has participated in specialisation courses and national and international conferences, especially in Latin America. He was part of the group of experts that, at the proposal of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security, analysed the consequences of the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the EU in the Spanish labour contracting system.

He is the author of numerous books, articles and book chapters in his specialty.

He has regularly collaborated with the *1st of May Foundation* and the *Cipriano García Foundation*, member of the European and Latin American Center for Social Dialogue, member of the Spanish Association of Labor Law and Social Security and the Spanish Association of Health and Social Security.



Mr. Juan Romo

Juan Romo is President of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (Crue) since April 26, 2022. Obtained his B.Sc. in Mathematics with Honors from Universidad Complutense de Madrid and his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Texas A&M University. Postdoc in City University of New York. He has been Associate Professor, both in Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, where he is Professor of Statistics. He has been Vice-President for Graduate Studies and Vice-President for Faculty and Departments in Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and he is its President since March, 2015. President of the Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN) from September, 2015 to 2019. President. Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Públicas Madrileñas (CRUMA). From January, 2018 to December, 2018. Vice-President of Consejo de Universidades since September 2018. Regular Councillor of the High Council on Statistics since November 2020. Coauthor of four books, he has published articles in research journals on complex, high-dimensional and functional data analysis, big data, resampling, time series, extremes and outliers, with applications in genetics (microarrays and SNPs), financial data, networks and image analysis.



Ms. Vanessa Debiais-Sainton

Is Head of the Unit in charge of Higher Education policies and programme at the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. The unit is the lead service for European policies on reform and transformation of Higher Education, the new European Universities initiative, automatic mutual recognition of higher education qualifications, the creation of the EU student card, and the Higher Education strand of Erasmus+. In previous posts in the European Commission, Vanessa has worked in DG Research and Innovation. Before moving to the European Commission in 2006, Vanessa spent eight years working for several petroleum and chemical companies.

UNIVERSITIES AS LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTIONS: A NEW FRONTIER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION?



Mr. Raúl Valdés Cotera

Is the Program Coordinator for Policies and Strategies at the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) in Hamburg, Germany, and leads the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities Programme. For more than fifteen years, he has worked in international organisations in the field of public policy, lifelong learning, youth and adult education, and educational planning. He has been a pioneer of learning and education policies for young people and adults and systems for the recognition, validation and accreditation of learning outcomes in several countries around the world. He has directed several research projects and publications, such as the regional report on the current situation for Adult Education in Latin America (2007), The conceptual and political evolution of development of learning throughout life (2011), the Glossary for Adult Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (2013), “Unleashing the Potential of Urban Communities” (2015 and 2017) and “Making Lifelong Learning a reality: A Handbook” (2022). Raúl has a master's degree in international business, a master's degree in psychology and a doctorate in education by Universidad Iberoamericana.

UNIVERSITIES AS LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTIONS: INSPIRING PRACTICES AND POLICIES



Mr. Simon Roy

Is a lead analyst in the Higher Education Policy Team within the OECD's Directorate of Education and Skills. Simon is coordinator of the ongoing Resourcing Higher Education Project, which explores how OECD jurisdictions structure higher education provision across institutions and territories, provide funding to institutions and financial support to students and regulate the employment of academic staff. Following an initial overview of international evidence (Resourcing Higher Education: Challenges, Choices and Consequences), published in 2020, the project has delivered a series of system-specific analyses focused on resourcing policies in Denmark, the Flemish Community of Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania and Portugal. The organisation and funding of adult learning have emerged as a key challenge in the OECD's work on higher education resourcing and skills development and will be the focus of a dedicated project in the next two-year OECD work programme, which will be led by Simon.



Mr. Michael Gaebe

Is Director of the Higher Education Policy Unit of the European University Association (EUA) in Brussels, which represents 800 universities from all over Europe and 33 national university associations. His work focusses on higher education reform development in the European Higher Education Area of the Bologna Process, and the European Education Area. He represents EUA in the Bologna Follow-up Group and has been actively involved in several of its working groups for more than a decade. Before joining EUA in 2006, Michael held various positions in international higher education exchange and cooperation in Asia and the Middle East.



Mr. Michael Fung

Is the Executive Director of the Institute for the Future of Education (IFE) at Tecnológico de Monterrey, leading the University's efforts to generate, transfer, and disseminate applicable knowledge about educational innovation, connecting and seeking disruptive global solutions for the future of higher education and lifelong learning. He was formerly Deputy Chief Executive at SkillsFuture Singapore, where he led the development of a comprehensive education and training ecosystem under the national SkillsFuture movement, which has become a global benchmark and reference for workforce skills development and lifelong learning. He is Founding President of the Higher Education Planning in Asia Association, an adjunct Senior Fellow at the Singapore University of Technology and Design, and serves on various global boards and committees. He is an alumnus of the University of Southern California and Carnegie Mellon University in the USA, and Tsinghua University in China.



Moderator: Ms. Nancy Anne Konvalinka

Is a Full Professor in the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the Faculty of Philosophy at the UNED, where she has been teaching since 2005. Her teaching focuses on courses in the Anthropology of Kinship and Family in undergraduate and graduate degrees.

In her position as Vice-Rector of Academic Coordination and Quality, she is leading a series of initiatives to improve quality in the UNED and to raise the position of our university in the rankings. These initiatives include, among others: institutional accreditation, the implantation of Docencia, the inauguration of an Office of Work Experience, and the accreditation of the Associated Centers.

She studied her B.A. at Indiana University in the USA, a second undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Political Science and Sociology at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and her doctoral work and dissertation at the UNED.

Her doctoral dissertation, which received the UNED Extraordinary Prize, analyzed the organization of kinship, gender relations, and family businesses in a village in León. Her later ethnographic research has dealt with issues of life course and late family formation, financed by a Wenner Gren Foundation Grant, a UNED grant, and an I+D research project from the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness. She is presently researching the understandings of kinship revealed by the use of assisted human reproduction techniques and gestational surrogacy. This research is financed by a I+D project from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, in which she is co-PI, and by a grant from the National Science Foundation in the United States, in which she coordinates the research in Spain.

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN LIFELONG LEARNING IN SPAIN



Mr. Ángel Pazos Carro

Prof. Ángel Pazos Carro is Rector of the Universidad de Cantabria since 2016 and President of Crue's Specialised Network for Learning and Teaching since 2019. He holds a degree (1979) and a PhD in Medicine and Surgery (1982) from the University of Cantabria and he completed his Postdoctoral training in Basel (Switzerland) and Bethesda (USA). Since 1992 he has been a Full Professor of Pharmacology, teaching at the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Nursing. He has been Vice-Dean of Academic Organisation of the Faculty of Medicine, Director of the Department and first Director of the Institute of Biomedicine and Biotechnology of Cantabria (IBBTEC) and Vice-Rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer from 2012 to 2016. He has been the Executive Secretary of Crue's Specialised Network for R&D&I (2014-2016). He has participated in national and European competitive research projects and is co-author of more than 150 scientific articles in high-impact international journals. His research interests have focused on the study of brain neurotransmitter receptors, the mechanism of action of drugs acting on diseases of the nervous system and the biological basis of neurological and psychiatric pathology. He is a founding member of the Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Salud Mental (CIBERSam), part of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III. Furthermore, he has been a member of multiple national and international scientific evaluation commissions, reviewer for some twenty scientific journals and Editor of the Journal of Neurochemistry for over 10 years. He has held the position of Deputy Manager of the Spanish National Research Plan in the Ministry of Science and Technology in the area of Biomedicine (1999-2003). He is a Full Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Cantabria. In 1988 the Spanish Government awarded him the "Juan Carlos I" National Research Prize.



Mr. Gerardo Gutiérrez Ardoy

General director of the State Public Employment Service (SEPE) since 2018. Previously, he was general director of Employment of the Castilla-La Mancha Public Employment Service (SEPECAM). He has a degree in Law from the National University of Distance Education, a Master's Degree in Employment, Labour Relations and Social Dialogue in Europe from the University of Castilla-La Mancha and a Master's Degree in Leadership and Public Policy Management from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He is a State Employment Management Technician and Technician, legal specialty, in the Castilla-La Mancha Community Board, on leave of absence.



Ms. Marian Alesón

Marian Aleson-Carbonell is currently the Director of the Permanent University (UPUA) at the University of Alicante, a centre for older-adult training and research. This centre is scientific, cultural and social development programme of the UA which has as its aim to promote Science and Culture, as well as intergenerational relationships, in order to improve the quality of life of seniors (older adults) and encourage their participation, within their life context, as social agents.

As regards research, Marian Aleson has studied the application of ICT to learning and her research on the teaching of English to older adult learners is especially relevant. She currently works in some European Research Projects on innovative education, and elderly people's training & preparation for active life. She has participated as a researcher in the BALL Project (Be Active Through Lifelong Learning), the PPS Project (Peer To Peer-Support Fostering Active Ageing), the project Edu-Sen-Net (Xarxa Educativa Sènior), the SeLid project (Sènior's Learning in the Digital Society), the INCULT Project (Living Intangible Culture) and the DEFINE Project (Digitalized Financial Education for Seniors).

She coordinated the Erasmus+ HeiM project (Heritage in Motion) where she conducted research on the specific English of Heritage aimed at the training of older adults based on the tenets of geragogy. This Project received the National Quality Award from Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education (SEPIE) in 2021.



Mr. Andreu Mas-Colell

Is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra and the Barcelona School of Economics. Previously, he has been professor of Economics at Harvard University (1981-1996) and of Economics and Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley (1972-1980). He has also been Secretary General of the European Research Council (July 2009-August 2010). He served as Minister of Universities, Reserach and Information Society (2000-2003) and Minister of Economy and Knowledge (2010-2016) in the Catalan Government. Professor Mas-Colell has been a Sloan Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow. He has received the Rey Juan Carlos I Prize in Economics (1988) and the Pascual Madoz National Research Prize (2006). He holds honorary degrees from the universities of Alacant, Toulouse, L'École des Hautes Études Commerciales (Paris), Universidad Nacional del Sur (Argentina) and the University of Chicago.



Moderator: Mr. Andrés Ajo Lázaro

Andrés Ajo Lázaro, who holds a degree in Biological Sciences from the Complutense University of Madrid, is a civil servant of the Secondary Education Teaching body in the specialty of Biology and Geology.

During his teaching career, he has been immersed in various initiatives of educational innovation, on which he has made several publications, has held different positions in management teams of Secondary Education in Madrid and has been especially involved in the permanent training of teachers, as a training advisor for the scientific and pedagogical updating of teachers and as Director of one of the biggest teachers in active training centres.

Passionate about education, he is convinced that internationalisation and the exchange of experiences between educational organisations, their teachers and students from different European countries is one of the most powerful tools for innovation and improvement. Since 2015, Andrés has been the Director of the School and Adult Education Unit at the Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education (SEPIE, the National Agency in Spain for the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission).

Previously, he held other positions in the National Agency since he joined it in 2009: he was director of the Vocational Education and Training Unit, National Liaison Agent of the Pestalozzi Programme of the Council of Europe for teacher training (2015 to 2017), etc.

He participates as Spanish representative for the Erasmus+ Programme in various Working Groups and Meetings of the European Commission and with other international organisations (2009-present).

He is frequently invited to give conferences and other interventions on internationalisation, educational innovation and education in numerous courses, congresses and meetings.

CLOSURE



Mr. José Manuel Pingarrón Carrazón

Bachelor of Chemical Sciences and Doctor of Sciences from the Complutense University of Madrid, is the General Secretary of Universities. He exercises the development of university policy in coordination with the Council of Universities and the coordination of relations, with Autonomous Communities, in university matters. Among his responsibilities: the ordering, programming and management of actions that are the responsibility of the General State Administration, in matters of higher university education, the preparation of proposals for general provisions in matters of its competence, as well as relations and consultations with the Autonomous Communities, Universities and interested natural and legal persons during its processing. The planning, coordination and evaluation of the lines of action of the programs in university matters and the promotion of collaboration in the field of scientific research, development and technological innovation of the Universities with other public and private research and innovation organisations, in coordination with the General Secretariat for Scientific Policy Coordination.

Conference facilitator



Mr. Raúl Ramos Lobo

Vice-Rector for Internationalisation Policy of the University of Barcelona. Full Professor at the Department of Econometrics, Statistics and Applied Economics of the University of Barcelona, researcher at the Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (AQR-IREA), IZA Research Fellow, GLO Fellow and member of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA). His research interests include labour market analysis from both regional and international perspectives, with a specific focus on globalisation, inequality, unemployment and migration. He has published extensively on these topics and participated in different research and knowledge transfer projects (European Commission, European Parliament, OECD, UNESCO, Eurofound, among others). He is currently Co-editor of the European Journal of Development Research, C-Co-Director of the *Revista de Economía Laboral*/Spanish Journal of Labour Economics and Associate Editor of Regional Studies, Regional Science.