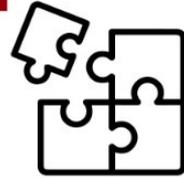


MCO CONNECT



NEWS FROM THE MAGNA CHARTA OBSERVATORY



MCO Connect - Issue 10, November 2023

Highlights of the Magna Charta Universitatum 2023 Anniversary



The Magna Charta Universitatum MCU2020 Anniversary 2023 took place from October 23rd to 25th at the University of Lodz, Poland. The event was an opportunity for higher education representatives from all over the world to come together and discuss pressing topics in the area and network. The event culminated in the Ceremony for the Signature of the Magna Charta Universitatum MCU2020. This year 35 universities from 12 different countries signed this important document, declaring their commitment to principles such as the defense of academic freedom and the promotion of the well being of the communities in their surroundings.

This year's theme, "Universities and Re-Construction of Cities: the Role of Research and Education," explored the crucial role played by Higher Education Institutions in transforming cities under various circumstances, from post-war re-construction, as seen in Ukraine and many other countries, to adapting to the changing tides of industry and society. The audience had the opportunity to hear from specialists on the field and also from students their perspectives on the topic.

Check below for some of the important discussions brought to the table:



The students in the MCU 2023 Anniversary

The MCU 2023 Anniversary was also marked by the increased presence of students, marking the deepening in the connection between the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) and the interests of students.

The session titled "Regional Perspectives on Universities Serving Societies: Challenges and Responses", which delved into the Higher Education landscape and current issues in Poland and Ukraine, had the participation of two student representatives from Ukraine. They shared their perspectives and outlined the actions undertaken by the student organization they were representing in the context of the ongoing challenges in the region.

The anniversary also featured the winners of the first MCO Student Essay Competition on several occasions. Not only did they have the opportunity to participate in the three-day event and receive their certificates in front of a large audience during the Ceremony for the Signature of the Magna Charta Universitatum MCU2020 but also showcased their winning essays on the theme "How might students exercise more influence in enabling their universities to make a more effective contribution to society?" during a World Café Session.

Finally, during the MCU 2023 Anniversary, MCO and the Global Students Forum (GSF) formalized a memorandum of understanding, which cemented the relationship between the two organizations and their commitment to collaborate in the future to enhance student involvement in governance and policy-making within higher education and contribute to the protection and advancement of the principles contained on Magna Charta Universitatum MCU 2020.

Keynotes

The Keynotes session featured Ed Brinksma (President of the UNIC), Rahman Elfihi (Chief of Section Capacity Development, and Water Family Coordination of Unesco) and Brendan O'Malley (Editor of University World News), discussing the role of education and research for promoting the common good. Read here some highlights of this interesting session:

Ed Brinksma, while discussing the case of three European universities located in regions affected by external events in the 20th Century, such as the destruction of the World War and changes in the economic sector, highlighted the importance of the universities in revitalizing the economy and promoting urban transformation. Moreover, he addressed the challenges of the interaction between universities and communities, given the different forms of knowledge. Brinksma also highlighted the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach involving various stakeholders to address the challenges of the 21st Century.

Rahman Elfihi, in discussing the challenges of research in the water sector, emphasized the importance of creating networks to increase the effectiveness of actions.

Brendan O'Malley delivered a powerful speech examining the role of education in promoting peace. He provided statistics on attacks on Higher Education Institutions in recent years and discussed how education can contribute to conflicts. During his speech he affirmed: "If you want to prevent education from being attacked, which can also mean to be available to play a key role in reconstruction, you first need to understand not just the methods but the motives of the attackers". These reflections can be watched on our YouTube channel and read on the report of the MCU 2023 Anniversary, available on our website.

Watch the recordings and read the documents of
the event

Coming Soon...



Webinar: Engagement with Civil Society: Experience from Latin America on 6th December 2023

Latin America is currently experiencing a renewed interest in the diverse ways in which higher education institutions can contribute to democratic development through closer engagement with civil society. The "university extension" movement, dating back to the early 1900s, is undergoing a revival that is significantly enhancing the democratic mission of the university.

Organized in cooperation with the Global Cooperation for the Democratic Mission of Higher Education, this webinar aims to offer firsthand perspectives from Latin American countries, allowing their experiences to become part of the global dialogue regarding the democratic mission of the university and how it can best engage with its local community and civil society.

The webinar will be moderated by Ronaldo Munck, Head of Civic Engagement at Dublin City University in Ireland and co-editor (along with Yadira Pinilla, Rita Hodges, and Catherine Bartch) of the book "Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean: Civic Engagement and the Democratic Mission."

[Click here to register](#)

Save the Date: London Mansion House Event on 9th May 2024

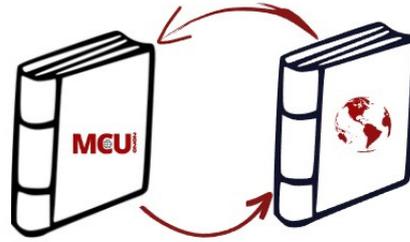
On the afternoon and evening of 9th May 2024, by kind invitation of the Lord Mayor of London, Professor Michael Mainelli, the MCO in association with Kings College London will be holding an event in the magnificent and historic setting of the Mansion House, London.

The purpose of the event is to discuss the relevance of academic freedom and its challenges in the 21st Century. During the event, Kings College London will launch their publication 'Principles for Academic Freedom,' and universities will have the opportunity to sign the Magna Charta Universitatum MCU2020.

Please mark your calendars and stay tuned!

More details on this event and how to register will come soon.





Sign the MCU 2020

At the moment 975 Universities in 94 different countries have already publicly embraced the fundamental principles and values set out in the Magna Charta Universitatum MCU2020, which include the autonomy of academic institutions, the central importance of academic freedom and the responsibilities of universities to serve society.

If your university embraces these principles and values and is not yet a signatory, why not join this worldwide community to participate in our activities and share with and enable universities around the world?

Becoming a signatory is free of charge and there is no annual subscription to remain so.

We are looking forward to your application!

[Apply here](#)

Magna Charta Observatory
 magnacharta@unibo.it
www.magna-charta.org



Call for Translation

The MCO's Living Values project is being used by an increasing number of universities around the world. To enable more universities to learn about it and make it easier for universities to use it, **help is required to translate the prospectus for the project into Arabic, French, Mandarin and Spanish.**

The document is not a long one and can be found in the link below.

The work of the translators and their university will be fully acknowledged and will enable many more universities to benefit from this project.

If you are able to do this please email the Secretary General on: davidjohn.lock@unibo.it

[More about the Living Values project and link to the text](#)

Email sent to

If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you wish to receive it regularly, [please join our mailing list](#) .

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