

THE UNIVERSITY NETWORK OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF CULTURE

The University Network of the European Capitals of Culture (UNeECC), an international non-profit association, was founded upon the initiative of the University of Pécs in Pécs, Hungary in December 2006 by 15 founding members.

The basic idea of UNEECC originates in the thought that it would be useful for the universities of the European Capitals of Culture to use this prestigious title to stimulate collaboration and to be able to realize an active and effective participation in the ECC movement. To reach these goals it is most advisable to thoroughly get acquainted with the activities and involvement of the past European Capitals of Culture universities, to exchange their experiences and following that to work out common projects for the future.

As it is stated in the Statutes, the general aim of UNEECC, an international non-profit association of universities which are situated in "Cities of Culture and Education" themselves, is

1. to ensure the recognition of the role and contribution of universities to the success of the cities conferred the title "European Capital of Culture"
2. to provide the member universities with a possibility of a continuous and full participation in the European Capitals of Culture movement enhanced by "Universities of the Year"
3. to foster inter-university cooperation to develop and reshape the universities regional position to create new activities for city and university collaboration

By now the network comprises over 50 member universities from about 21 countries, from North to South and East to West, from both 'old' and 'new' EU Member States, as well as from Candidate countries. UNeECC includes institutions with a long-standing tradition as well as recently founded universities. They all share a true vocation in the development of a more outspoken European dimension in their research and education and the engagement to join up forces with local authorities to strengthen the impact of the European Capitals of Culture by giving academic support to the organization of the programmes and initiating additional events aimed at specific audiences.

UNeECC invites memberships in three different categories:

- Full Membership: universities from cities of the European Capitals of Culture
- Associate Membership: universities from applicant cities
- Supportive Membership: all others, including cities and cultural organizations with parallel interests

The officials of the new network are :

President of UNEECC :

Prof. Flora Carrijn, Vice-chancellor, Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp

Vice Presidents :

Prof. William Chambers, Dean, Liverpool Hope University

Prof.László Komlósi, Vice Rector, University of Pécs

Board members :

Prof. Angela O'Neill, Director, College of Europe, Bruges and Warsaw

Prof.Carol Gueret, Vice Rector, University of Avignon

Prof. Krystyna Koziec, Vice Rector, Agricultural University in Krakow

Prof. Deniz Ulke Aribogan, Rector, Bahcesehir University, Istanbul

Prof. Rodica Ofelia Miclea, Vice Rector, University of Sibiu

Prof. Marko Marhl, Vice Rector, University of Maribor

General Secretary :

Gyöngyi Pozsgai, Head of IRO, University of Pécs

The Secretariat of UNEECC is at the University of Pécs in Hungary.

Activities:

General Assemblies and Annual Conferences

- 2007: Sibiu – 'Town and Gown'
- 2008: Liverpool – ' Whose Culture(?)'
- 2009: Vilnius – 'Innovation, Creativity and Culture'
- 2010: Pécs – Joint Conference with Compostela Group of Universities – 'Inclusion through Education and Culture'
- 2011 : Tallin

In 2007 the UNeECC GA and Conference was hosted by Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu. The Keynote Speaker of the Conference was Mr. Roger O'Keeffe Principal Administrator, from European Commission Directorate for Education and Culture

In 2008 the GA and Annual Conference was organized by Liverpool Hope University and the University of Liverpool. The Keynote Speaker of the Conference was Prince Charles-Louis d'Arenberg.

In 2010, when the European Capital of Culture programme will celebrate its 25th anniversary. the University of Pécs is going to host the General Assembly and Annual Conference of UNeECC. We are going to organize a joint conference of UNeECC and the Compostela Group of Universities providing a unique platform for scientific collaboration and networking. The Keynote speaker of the conference will be Commissioner László Andor.

Events for Students:

- I. UNeECC Student Workshop – 2009. Pécs
- II. UNeECC Student Workshop – 2009. Vilnius
- III. UNeECC Student Workshop – 2010. Pécs
- I. UNeECC Summer School – 2010. Istanbul

Activities for fostering mobility among the member universities :

- I. UNeECC Erasmus Coordinators Meeting – 2010. Avignon

Further information about the University Network of the European Capitals of Culture can be found at www.uneecc.org.