

The International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility, and Democracy (IC)

in cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States

and the International Association of Universities

Timeline 1999-2020

1999

Council of Europe's (CoE) Budapest Declaration: Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on the 50th anniversary of the Council (May 1999), the Budapest Declaration highlighted the fundamental role of education in promoting active participation of all individuals in democratic life at all levels and the importance of "learning democracy in school and university life." It called for action to promote democratic values and practices in all CoE member states.

Presidents' Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education: Put forth by Campus Compact, The Presidents' Declaration on the Civic Responsibility of Higher Education was first signed in July of 1999 by 51 U.S. college and university presidents and now has 564 signatures.

Pilot Study: Universities as Sites of Citizenship and Civic Responsibility: In response to the Budapest Declaration, the CoE Higher Education and Research Committee initiated a project on the "University as Site of Citizenship" as a contribution to the CoE's project on Education for Democratic Citizenship. American academic interest was stimulated by the Presidents' Declaration. The International Consortium (IC) formed at a meeting in Strasbourg, France and launched the pilot study.

Funded by the CoE and the US National Science Foundation, the pilot study explored the actual activities of institutions of higher education that support democratic values and practices, assesses their capabilities to promote democracy, and examines how university resources can improve the contributions of higher education to democracy on the campus, and in the local community and wider societies. The study was conducted by 15 U.S. and 13 European colleges and universities, five in South Africa, eight in Australia, and ten in Korea.

2000

South Africa joins the IC through the Community, Higher Education, Service Partnership (CHESP) program of the Joint Education Trust and initiates the pilot study.

2003

Australian IC membership was organized through the Australian Consortium on Higher Education, Community Engagement and Social Responsibility. Its goal has been to develop a scholarly network to investigate and analyse the burgeoning role of community in higher education in a national social, political and economic context. It published a "Foundational Document" outlining its goals, activities and governance. Pilot study findings available in *Beyond Rhetoric: University-Community Engagement in Victoria*.

South Korea funds the pilot study for South Korean universities.

The Democracy Project. Creation of a research seminar with a protocol that could be adapted by faculty globally was proposed at a meeting of IC and CoE leadership at Penn in 2003. Penn was encouraged to create the pilot seminar for the IC, The Democracy Project. The Democracy Project exists as an ongoing

faculty-student collaborative research seminar. The seminar is designed to measure the impact of college/university education on the democratic dispositions, competences and responsibilities of students, proceeding in collaboration with colleges and universities around the world. The survey instruments are online and being used at other higher education institutions (www.internationalconsortium.org).

2004

The university as res publica: Higher education governance, student participation and the university as a site of citizenship is published by the Council of Europe. Sjur Bergan, editor. Frank Plantan's article, "The University as Site of Citizenship," summarizes the pilot project.

(Copies available online at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/highereducation/Resources/HEseries_en.asp)

2005

CoE's European Year of Citizenship through Education

Universities as Sites for Citizen: Citizenship Through Education: Trans-Atlantic and Global Perspectives: Conference hosted by the IC on April 28-29 at Penn. This conference brought together representatives of the CoE, the US IC Steering Committee, and the Penn research directors, to review the findings of the Pilot study, activities of the 2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education and make plans for the IC.

The Australian Consortium hosted Senior Fulbright Scholar and U.S. IC Chair, Ira Harkavy, who ran a Symposium that explored and developed the Australian debate about the role and function of universities, and conducted a survey of community engagement policies and strategies in universities in the state of Victoria.

The Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research adopts (September) a proposal for a forum on the responsibility of higher education for democratic culture whose main purpose is to adopt a Declaration on the Responsibility of Higher Education for Democratic Culture.

2006

Global Forum on Higher Education for Democratic Culture, Citizenship, Human Rights and Sustainability: An invitational Global Forum was held on June 22-23 in Strasbourg, sponsored by the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research in cooperation with the International Consortium. The Forum gathered some 150 university presidents and high-level policymakers.

At the Forum, the Declaration: The Responsibility of Higher Education for a Democratic Culture: Citizenship, Human Rights and Sustainability was adopted by acclamation. The Declaration affirms the need to increase commitment of higher education institutions to a democratic culture and sustainable societies and calls for action to promote the principles of democratic citizenship, human rights and civic responsibility in higher education. A Global Network of higher education leaders was invited sign the Declaration and inform all members who signed of their institution's activities that promote the goals of the Declaration.

2007

Symposium on Universities, Democratic Culture and Human Rights: An Action Agenda: Hosted at Philadelphia in March 2007, this conference served as a follow-up to the June 2006 Global Forum.

Attended by more than 60 leaders from 14 different countries, the Symposium was convened by the International Consortium to assess the progress of the network and propose future action.

CoE leaders met with IC and other US civic education leaders at Penn in August to discuss development of a toolkit for linking local schools and colleges and universities in their communities to enhance human rights and democratic education. Development of a paper on democratic governance in higher education was also proposed.

US IC chair met in August with leadership of Iberoamericana University in Mexico City to explore Mexican/Latin American participation in the IC.

Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Higher Education and Research. Held September 20-21, where a presentation was made of the March Symposium on Universities, Democratic Culture and Human Rights held in Philadelphia.

Higher Education and Democratic Culture: Citizenship, Human Rights and Civic Responsibility is published by the CoE in November and based on proceedings of the June 2006 Global Forum. Josef Huber and Ira Harkavy, editors. (Copies available online at http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/highereducation/Resources/HEseries_en.asp)

A CoE expert group approves in November development of a new instrument on sharing of experiences in EDC/HRE: Sharing of Experiences in EDC/HRE between Higher Education Institutions and Secondary and Primary Schools. A complementary volume on Democratic Governance in Higher Education was also approved.

Students for Human Rights and Democratic Education: As a result of the call for student involvement at both the Global Forum in 2006 and the Symposium in 2007, Students for Human Rights and Democratic Education: A Student Conference to Commemorate International Human Rights Day was held at Penn, 12/27. Sponsored by the International Consortium, the conference was student-organized and run.

IC Video: the U.S. Steering Committee the IC in collaboration with the CoE-Committee on Higher Education and Research created the first video to promote the Global Network, established at the Global Forum in Strasbourg in June 2006. The video is located on the IC's website, <http://www.internationalconsortium.org>.

Korea. Frank Plantan, Penn faculty and Executive Secretary of the IC, spent most of 2007 in South Korea to strengthen the Korean Consortium and build a Pacific regional collaboration. Discussions were held with presidents and deans of over 70 Korean universities informing them about the CoE and the IC and how to join the Global Network in developing the Korean National Consortium on Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy.

Kyung Hee University convened the 2007 Peace Conference "In Celebration of the 26th Anniversary of the UN International Day of Peace, Transformative Challenges: In Search of New Humanity and Community." Gabriele Mazza, Head of the Council of Europe's In-School, Out-of-School and Higher Education Division, made a presentation on the CoE's role in citizenship, democracy and human rights education. Bruce Muirhead of Australia's EIDOS Institute spoke on the work of the Australian Consortium.

2008

Meeting in San Diego in February on the toolkit projects. Participants broke into working groups and developed outlines for the two documents: (1) an instrument on sharing of experiences in EDC/HRE:

Sharing of Experiences in EDC/HRE between Higher Education Institutions and Secondary and Primary Schools, and (2) the complementary volume on Democratic Governance in Higher Education.

Meeting in Strasbourg in May of the American and European authors of the toolkit on Sharing Experiences in EDC/HRE. Critiqued the draft outline (from San Diego) and developed a far more detailed outline of the paper. The document will have two parts: The first half will articulate the conception of Education for Democratic Citizenship in the context of university/school/community partnerships and the second half will focus on describing how they would and how individuals could assess existing partnerships.

Meeting in Strasbourg in June of the American and European authors of the papers on democratic governance in higher education. Further developed outline prepared in San Diego.

The IC launches a full redesign of its website, now available at: <http://www.internationalconsortium.org>.

Meeting in Strasbourg in September on the paper on democratic governance in higher education.

Global Forum on Converging Competences: Diversity, Higher Education and Sustainable Democracy: held on October 2-3, 2008, at the Council of Europe, Strasbourg France.

2009

Council of Europe and the US Steering Committee of the IC presented at the AAC&U conference on Educating for Personal and Social Responsibility: Deepening Student and Campus Commitments.

2011

The Global Forum on “Reimagining Democratic Societies: A New Era of Personal and Social Responsibility?” in Oslo, Norway in collaboration with the European Wergeland Centre, the University of Oslo, the International Association of Universities and the Norwegian authorities.

2012

Planning meeting held in July in Strasbourg on future IC/CoE collaboration that included the US IC Steering Committee members, President Eduardo Padron- Miami Dade College and European colleagues from the CoE, the European Wergeland Centre, and the Magna Carta Observatory.

“International Perspectives on Higher Education-School-Community Partnerships” panel at the Netter Center’s 20th Anniversary International Conference in November on “The Role of Higher Education-Community-School Partnerships in Creating Democratic Communities Locally, Nationally & Globally. Panel included IC/CoE collaborators Sjur Bergan and Bruce Muirhead and was moderated by Matt Hartley.

2013

Organizational meeting of the CoE/IC leadership and planning for the 2014 Global Forum held at the conference host site, Queen’s University-Belfast.

2014

Global Forum on “Higher Education for Democratic Innovation” held in June at Queen’s University-Belfast with the collaboration of the European Wergeland Centre, the European Students’ Union and the Talloires Network. A related publication is being developed that will be published by the CoE in early 2016.

Engagement Australia and the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement in the United Kingdom joined the International Consortium.

2015

Campus Engage Ireland joined the IC.

2016

Higher Education for Democratic Innovation published by the Council of Europe as part of its Higher Education Series. No. 21. (2016). Edited by Sjur Bergan, Tony Gallagher, and Ira Harkavy.

Universities South Africa joined the IC.

2017

Global Forum on “Higher Education for Higher Education for Diversity, Social Inclusion, and Community: A Democratic Imperative.” 14-16 June 2017 at LUMSA University. Two preconferences were held. The first was a preconference on refugees hosted by Australian University in collaboration with the Sant’Egidio Community. The second was an invitational meeting on universities as local actors sponsored by the Council and the Anchor Institutions Task Force that was hosted by the Congregation for Catholic Education.

2018

The Organization of American States joins the cooperation between the IC and the Council of Europe.

The second invitational European meeting on Universities as Local Actors was held in October at Dublin City University in collaboration with the U.S. Anchor Institutions Task Force. There was also a public event at the Royal Irish Academy on How Can Higher Education Meet the Challenges to Democracy?

Higher Education for Democratic Diversity, Social Inclusion and Community: A democratic imperative published by the Council of Europe as part of its Higher Education Series. No. 22. (2018). Edited by Sjur Bergan and Ira Harkavy.

2019

The Local Mission of Higher Education: Principles and Practices. Edited by Sjur Bergan, Ira Harkavy and Ronaldo Munck. Glasnevin Publishing, 2019.

The third invitational European meeting on the “Local Mission of Higher Education” in collaboration with the U.S. Anchor Institutions Task Force was held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 18-19 June 2019. Participants committed advancing a European network.

The Global Forum on “Academic Freedom, Institutional Autonomy and the Future of Democracy” was held 20-21 June 2019 in Strasbourg. The Global Forum on Academic Freedom, Institutional Autonomy, and the Future of Democracy was held at Council of Europe headquarters and co-organized by the Council of Europe; the International Consortium for Higher Education, Civic Responsibility and Democracy; the Organization of American States; the Magna Charta Observatory; and the International Association of Universities. The participants adopted a Declaration supporting the role of academic freedom and institutional autonomy in ensuring the future of democracy.

The International Association of Universities (IAU) joins the collaboration among the Council of Europe, the IC, and the OAS in September 2019.

2020

The Magna Charta Observatory joined the International Consortium in March 2020.

Academic Freedom, Institutional Autonomy and the Future of Democracy published by the Council of Europe as part of its Higher Education Series. No. 24 (2020). Edited by Sjur Bergan, Tony Gallagher and Ira Harkavy.