

Declaration

Rectors of the European universities and leaders of the University Associations listed below, gathered in Iași 30 years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, and contemplating the lessons of the past while celebrating the “return to Europe” and endorsing the vision of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and European Research Area (ERA),

express their concern regarding the widespread social and political developments which could hinder the advancement of the EHEA and of the ERA.

In relation to such challenges, we hereby declare that:

- with our societies challenged by waves of intolerance, it is increasingly important that universities continue to promote the spirit of understanding and the respect of identities;
- the surge of post-truth should not change the centuries-old status of universities as a source and a safe haven for truth in its evolution, as a guardian of the critical spirit and of the sense of accountability.

Furthermore, reiterating the recommendation of the Prague Declaration (2018), we wish to stress that, in order to achieve the goals of the EHEA and the ERA, UK universities should preserve their eligibility in all European educational and research programmes, irrespective of the way “Brexit” unfolds.

Approaching a millennium since the establishment of the first Alma Mater in Bologna, universities continue to carry the responsibility as one of the main contributors to the shaping of the future of Europe and of the world.

Iași, October 2019