The Role of Universities in the Dialogue of Civilizations

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Rector of the University of Porto, Portugal
Porto, 23 February 2017

OUTLINE

The Role of Universities in the Dialogue of Civilizations

1. Life Today in a Small Global World - Changes in Society - The Young Generation, the expectations of the ‘Millenials’

2. The major issue - Conciliation of Cultures and Civilizations

3. University of Porto - A Connected University
   3.1 ‘Student mobility to promote piece, security and human rights’
**LIFE TODAY - GLOBALISATION**

A MIX OF CHALLENGES, THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES (I)

- **Disruptive Advances** in Science and Technology, by the end of the XX Century
  - The Computer and Communications era - dramatic changes of the concepts of time and space
  - Advances in Life Sciences - The increase of Expectation of Life
- Major political changes in the World, the Fall of the Berlin Wall, on 9 November 1989
- Increase of Expectation of Life brought instability in the European Social Model - work longer years, smaller retirement pensions

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**LIFE TODAY - GLOBALISATION**

A MIX OF CHALLENGES, THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES (II)

- The global market economy - driving today’s Societies
  - Sharp increase in competition Worldwide
  - Volatility of jobs
  - Job market and opportunities, wider than ever
- Very significant changes in the concept of individual career management, mainly for Young People
- Very significant changes in the concepts of education
- An evolution that we have to understand and support, mainly by adapting the STRUCTURE AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE OFFER OF EDUCATION - hard to put in place
**Life Today - Globalisation**

**A Mix of Challenges, Threats and Opportunities (III)**

- Digital networks vs. Social Networks
  - Leading movements powerfully connected
  - New job opportunities... For a minority
  - The other side of the coin - manipulation of Society

- World is becoming multipolar

- Formal Power is being overcome by Factual Power

- Mobility gives rise to ‘Spiritual Territories’

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**Life Today - People**

**Educational Needs for the Generations of the Future**

- Today, as in the past, the issue is to train and widen the scope of thinking of young people, providing cultural knowledge of the World

- BUT, just some major differences from the past and a major difference for the future are that ‘millenials’:
  - will live longer
  - will work longer
  - will have to study longer
  - more and more will have to work away from the original home
  - indeed will have to think global, just to the dimension of Earth (... or even beyond...). ...
LIFE TODAY
THE PARADOX OF PROGRESS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS

9/11 - was it the beginning of a new ‘era’? Is there a reversion?
- Migrants
- Large scale regional wars
- Hunger and refugees
- Peace
- Security
- Human Rights

We are learning, We shall be able to learn with the tragedy

FOR TOMORROW – POLITICAL VISION AND WILL
CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES TO BE TACKLED

Huntington (1993) - The Clash of Civilizations?
- “the world will be shaped in large measure by the interactions among seven or eight major civilizations. These include Western, Confucian, Japanese, Islamic, Hindu, Slavic-Orthodox, Latin American and possibly African civilization”

We should revisit Flewelling (original 1951) - Conflicts and Conciliation of Cultures and Civilizations - a major old issue for the future
FOR TOMORROW – PEOPLE’S VISION AND WILL

- I believe that people are learning with and from the tragedy
- People want to take action in order to conciliate the World
- Peace, security and Human Rights are back in the main concerns of people
- We should not underestimate the power of the ‘connected world’
- We should not underestimate the power of vote
- We have to use this major instrument of Culture and Education

UNIVERSITY OF PORTO
Strong Commitment to International Cooperation, mainly to Student Mobility
WHAT UNIVERSITIES ARE

• Centres for development and transfer of knowledge, in all areas
• Centres for reflection, research and education
• Spaces of human freedom
• Spaces for human interaction

MESSAGE ABOUT U.PORTO - I

• A comprehensive University whose genesis dates back to the XVIII century, born in a historical old City, Capital of the most industrialised Region of Portugal - The North Region

• An University nationally at the top of all quality indicators, in all main interrelated areas of its mission:
  ➢ Education
  ➢ Research
  ➢ Third Mission of valorisation of knowledge

• An university at the top of international cooperation in ERASMUS programmes for mobility of students, faculty and staff
But Equally,

- An University fully committed to Society in Social Dimension and Social Responsibility
- An University fully committed to promoting Culture and Sports

In All,

- An University consistently ranked between the 50-150 best universities in Europe, globally and in field specific evaluations
More than 4000 students from 129 Countries - 13% of total students - Welcome reception on the 22nd February 2017
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On 22 February 2017 - Her Excellency, The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, with Students
Reception of International Students - 2016/17

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Erasmus Mundus Programme

The U.Porto in the Erasmus Mundus Programme (Action 2) - 2009-2014

1st Project Coordinated with Brazil, 2008

48 Consortia

2014 Rankings: U.Porto is a leading Institution in Europe:
- 3rd European University with more coordinated projects (9)
- 5th European University with higher participation in partnerships (39)
### THE U.PORTO IN THE ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGRAMME (ACTION 2) - 2009-2014

- **9 Coordinations**
- **39 Partnerships**

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<td>Continents</td>
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<td>Countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutions involved</td>
<td>792</td>
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<td>Mobility flows</td>
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<td>Million euros in total</td>
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<td>Million euros managed by U.Porto</td>
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### U.PORTO IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME 2016

- **4 Coordinations**
- **13 Partnerships**

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<td>Countries</td>
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<td>Institutions Involved</td>
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<td>Awarded Scholarships</td>
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<td>(376 for non EU countries)</td>
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<td>Millions of euros in Total</td>
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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - STUDENT SATISFACTION

Certificate for International Student Satisfaction

Awarded to

University of Porto

For Excellent International Student Satisfaction based on 38 student reviews on the StudyPortals website SToXX.eu

2015 winner

2015 Score

9+
out of 10

studyportals
taking you further

For every review on SToXX.eu, StudyPortals makes a donation to UNICEF’s “School for Africa” campaign on behalf of the student.
The goal to fund the building of a school in Guinea-Bissau.

2016 - INNOVATION IN INTERNATIONALISATION

Institutional Award for Innovation in Internationalisation

Prize awarded by the Executive Committee of the European Association for International Education (EAIE) in 2016
(Liverpool, United Kingdom)
**EUROPEAN BEST DESTINATION 2017**

- Porto was elected on 10th February European Best Destination 2017.
- Porto is exceptional in more ways than one and the “Cidade Invicta” (unvanquished city) is history, is architecture, culture, gastronomy, trade, encounters and discoveries.

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**PORTO AND GAIA – FROM THE DAYS OF THE ROMANS**

- Port Wine Cellars
- 2000 years ago Portus Cale
PORTO, A HISTORICAL CITY

A modern ‘World Heritage Site’
Rabelos Boats and Bridge Luis I, Teófilo Seyrig, 1886-1887

World Heritage Site - UNESCO 1996

Contemporary Art Serralves Museum, Arch. Álvaro Siza, 2005
PORTO, CITY OF MUSIC: CASA DA MÚSICA - CONCERT HALL 2005

Arch. Rem Koolhas, Pritzker Winner, RIBA European Award 2007

PORTO, CITY OF TRADE, WITH EXCELLENT EASY ACCESSES

2nd Best European Airport (ACI award 2011)
25/02/2017

2 European Champions League Cups
2 Intercontinental Cups
1 European SuperCup
1 European League Cup

City of Innovation
A Connected University

A major instrument for the Dialogue of Civilizations
Many Thanks for your Attention
Let Us Work Together for a Better World