

European Networks and Agencies for Internationalization

3rd Conference



28th April 2016

Venue: Sala Conferenze Internazionali
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
P.le della Farnesina1, Rome (Italy)

Organized by

Uni-Italia

Centre for Academic Promotion and Orientation to study in Italy

In cooperation with:

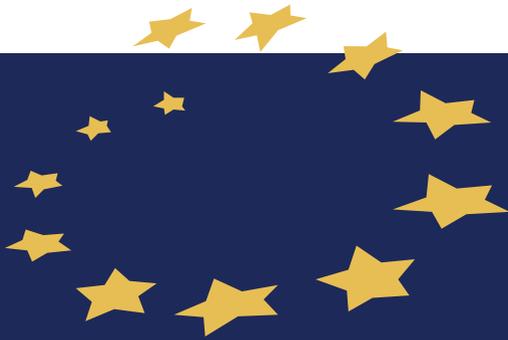
The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research

The Italian Ministry of Interior

CRUI – Conference of Italian University Rectors

Greetings





It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to the third Conference on European Networks and Agencies of internationalization, conceived by Uni-Italy in 2012 in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, whom I thank for hospitality today, with the intent to further the debate between the Italian institutions and the major agencies of the European University Internationalization.

The conference is part of the activities that Uni-Italy held for years in support the ministries founding members, the university internationalization together with Italian institutions responsible, jointly with universities and Afam institutions.

The theme of this third Conference covers issues relating to student visas and best practices implemented in Europe, and I'd like to thank the Minister Gentiloni, the Minister Giannini and Vice Minister Bubbico as well as each of You for attending our conference and bringing your expertise. You have the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal and the experience to help us pave our way into the future. Throughout this conference, Italy aims to keep on being proactive and shape the future of promoting higher education and managing the reception of international students in our Country.

Once more thanking You all for being here today, I renew my best wishes to all the good work.

Cesare Romiti
President of Uni-Italia



The development of interactions and connections between the economic, cultural and scientific dimensions in the promotion of the “Brand Italy” is one of the main purposes of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

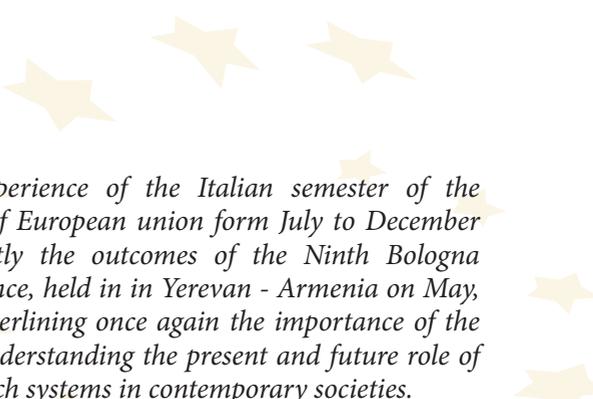
As part of this broader strategy, the internationalization of higher education is a driver for change and innovation. It is key to enhance the learning environment for the benefit of domestic students and universities, attract international talents, export cultural products and services, improve understanding among nations, and spur the economic, scientific and technological competitiveness.

The landscape of internationalization is rapidly evolving and embraces different aspects. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is particularly committed to foster faculty and students exchanges, and to reduce barriers to the internationalization of higher education.

Student mobility is probably the most visible part of internationalization. I am therefore very pleased to welcome our partners at this third international conference, focused on student visas in Europe.

Paolo Gentiloni

Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation



Following the relevant experience of the Italian semester of the Presidency of the Council of European union from July to December 2014, but more significantly the outcomes of the Ninth Bologna Process Ministerial Conference, held in Yerevan - Armenia on May, 2015, I feel the duty of underlining once again the importance of the international context for understanding the present and future role of higher education and research systems in contemporary societies.

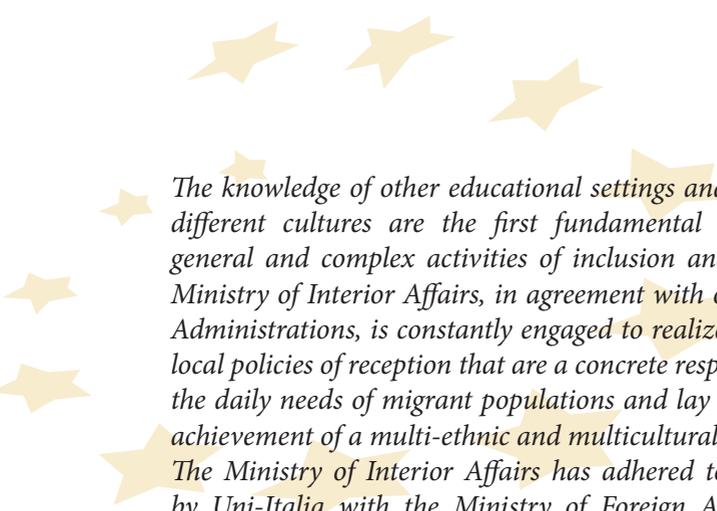
As clearly stated by the 47 ministerial delegations in the final Yerevan communiqué, we are all presently exposed to “... a continuing economic and social crisis, dramatic levels of unemployment, increasing marginalization of young people, demographic changes, new migration patterns, and conflicts within and between countries, as well as extremism and radicalization.”

However, in this globalized and competitive environment, education is more and more playing a crucial role, both formal and informal, in order to cope with those societal challenges, using the tools of scientists, students and academics mobility, as an informal diplomacy for improving mutual understanding.

The results is a new role of higher education and research, achieving the Bologna mandate to promote intercultural understanding, critical thinking, political and religious tolerance, gender equality, and democratic and civic values, in line with the recognized principles of the third mission of universities.

Let's keep this momentum, offering to contemporary societies the opportunity offered by the social role of Academia, in order to build up a better future for Europe and for all citizens of the world.

Stefania Giannini
Minister of Education and Research



The knowledge of other educational settings and the exchange among different cultures are the first fundamental element of the more general and complex activities of inclusion and integration that the Ministry of Interior Affairs, in agreement with other central and local Administrations, is constantly engaged to realize, by giving impulse to local policies of reception that are a concrete response of the territory to the daily needs of migrant populations and lay the foundation for the achievement of a multi-ethnic and multicultural society.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs has adhered to an agreement made by Uni-Italia with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Universities which regulates the operational arrangements to facilitate the entries of international students in Italy, even in order to facilitate the procedures of application for a residence permit.

Such agreement is part in the circle of the initiatives that the Ministry of Interior Affairs has promoted in the last times to support foreign students and researchers.

Opening Italy to international students is crucial.

It deals with young people who build their own migratory project around the faith in the ability of Italian training Institutions to develop their personal skills and competences

But it also deals with our capability to enhance our social capital.

Education is a cultural, economic and, most of all, civil value.

Filippo Bubbico

Vice Minister of the Interior Affairs

The European Commission has supported university cooperation and exchanges of students and staff for several decades, within EU but also with partners abroad. I am very proud of the first results of the Erasmus+ programme, which has a strong international dimension and funds hundreds of global projects every year. This demonstrates the interest of our universities and students to reach out beyond their country's borders.

In addition to the financial support provided through Erasmus+, I am very committed to giving more visibility to European higher education on the international scene. Europe has to continue to be an attractive place to study, carry out research and teach. The European Commission has joined several national agencies present today in promoting the diversity and wealth of the European academic offer in a more striking way.

I am pleased that you chose the student visa issue as the main topic of your discussion. I am aware of difficulties that some non-European students face in entering the EU, particularly for longer stays. I am satisfied that we have managed to find an agreement with the Council and European Parliament to revise the EU Directive on the entry and residence of students and researchers – this should ease the issuing of visas and residence permits. I also look forward to the next adoption by the European Commission of a proposal for revising the Blue Card Directive, aimed at attracting highly qualified third-country nationals.

Tibor Navracsics

Member of European Commission Education
Culture, Youth & Sport

Uni-Italia

Uni-Italia is a no-profit association founded on 30th July 2010 jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Education, University and Research, the Ministry of Interior and the Italy China Foundation.

Uni-Italia has the aim of promoting Italian Higher Education and the mobility of foreign students and researchers towards Italian universities as well as encouraging academic cooperation between Italy and other foreign countries. The Association is present in several countries including China and Mongolia, Indonesia, Brazil, Vietnam, Iran, South Korea and soon Philippines, India, Egypt, Morocco, Cameroon, Turkey and the Gulf countries.

On the bases of an agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation the Association works closely with Italian diplomatic offices abroad where the Uni-Italia Centres for promotion and orientation to study in Italy are located in. All these Centres cooperate with the Italian Cultural Institutes and the Italian Consulates abroad especially in promoting Italian higher education programs, informing and assisting students with their first enquiries made in their own countries.

The Association also assists students when they arrive in Italy and for the length of their stay with the aim of facilitating their integration into the new social, academic and cultural environment.





The Conference of Italian University Rectors

The CRUI is the association of the state and private universities.

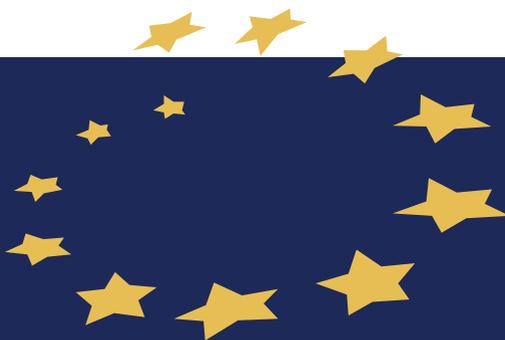
Established in 1963 as a private association of Rectors, the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) has over time acquired an acknowledged institutional and representative role, as well as a practical capacity to influence the development of the university system through its intense activity of study and experimentation. Since 2001, the Conference of Italian University Rectors has been flanked in its managerial and executive functions by the CRUI Foundation, which is entrusted with developing projects and services in conformity with the strategies of the Conference of Italian University Rectors.

The CRUI engages in the provision of proposals, consultation, and co-ordination in relation to the key questions and issues of the university system. It is a leading point of reference as regards the questions and needs of academic world as a whole for the Italian Parliament and the Italian Ministry of Education.

The CRUI develops and supports the model of autonomous universities established by the Italian Parliament and together with other European partners, within the framework of the commitments undertaken by Italy in an international context, it is working to build the European Higher Education and Research Area.

Given its acknowledged skills and expertise, the CRUI, thanks to the close integration with CRUI Foundation, develops and organises innovative initiatives and projects for universities; experiments with new models and methodologies that can be adopted by universities; promotes and engages in communication within the university system; manages programmes and services for universities.

European Networks and Agencies for Internationalization



Participants

Archimedes Foundation is an independent body established by the Estonian government with the objective to coordinate and implement different international and national programmes and projects in the field of training, education and research.

Education

We are the implementing body of Erasmus+ and administer several national and international scholarship schemes for improving mobility, marketing Estonian higher education and research abroad.

The evaluation of foreign qualifications is carried out by the Academic Recognition Information Centre (Estonian ENIC/NARIC centre), while Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency carries out institutional accreditation and quality assessment of study groups.

Research

We are the Implementing Agency of Structural Support for the period 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 in the field of R&D.

Youth work

We are the implementing body for Erasmus+ Youth programme.



The British Council is the cultural relations organisation of the UK, building friendly relations and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries worldwide. We work in over 100 countries, connecting millions of people with the United Kingdom through programmes and services in the English language, the Arts, Education and Society. We believe these are the most effective means of engaging with others and sharing the UK's great cultural assets with the world. We are established as a charity and have been operating since 1934.

Our work in English aims to bring high quality language materials to every learner and teacher who wants them. In developing and post-conflict countries we teach English and train teachers through radio, web and TV broadcasts. We offer over three million UK examinations worldwide, helping people gain access to trusted qualifications to support their career and study prospects.

Our work in Education and Society helps transform national education systems builds more inclusive and open societies and increases young people's opportunities. We encourage international students to come and study in the UK, and British students to experience life abroad. We bring schools around the world together so young people and teachers from different countries can share with and learn from each other.

Our work in the Arts involves the very best British and international artistic talent. We help increase audiences for international work in the UK and for UK work globally. We bring artists together and support the development of skills and policy in the arts and creative industries. Through this work we ensure that culture in its broadest sense plays a vital role in connecting with and understanding each other.

In these ways, the British Council builds links between UK people and institutions and those around the world, helping to create trust and lay foundations for prosperity and security around the world.





Campus France Agency is a public institution in charge of promoting higher education and managing the reception and international mobility of students, researchers, experts and guests.

Thanks to its global network of 234 Campus France Spaces, the agency informs international students about French higher education, guides them on their choice of training, helps them complete their application form and gain a visa. The agency keeps in touch with former students, particularly through France Clubs.

The agency is in charge of the mobility of students benefitting from French government scholarships of researchers and experts on a mission and stakeholders invited to France. It is also in charge of managing scholarship programs from foreign governments and public and private institutions.

Campus France supports higher education and research institutions in their international development through events of higher training promotion in France and overseas, reactions to international calls for tender, services for Campus France Forum members and studies and analysis on student mobility and higher education systems worldwide.

Change by exchange is the motto of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and our contribution to shaping a global society that finds solutions to the pressing issues of tomorrow. The DAAD works to strengthen internationalization and global responsibility. We support academic exchange through

- Scholarships for the Best
- Structures for Internationalisation
- Expertise for Academic Collaboration

The DAAD is the organization of German higher education institutions and their student bodies devoted to internationalizing the academic and scientific research system. Through its scholarship program, the DAAD enables students and researchers to take advantage of the best study and research opportunities. It promotes transnational cooperation and is the German national agency for EU higher education cooperation. The DAAD operates a network of 70 offices worldwide to promote the German higher education system and to further increase the visibility of German higher education abroad. In 2014, the DAAD provided funding to more than 120,000 German and foreign students and scholars, with a total budget of 440 million Euro.





Education Exchanges Support Foundation is a Lithuanian National Agency entrusted with the administration of Erasmus+ and other initiatives funded by the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in the field of education, training and student exchange.

The Foundation administers more than 50 different activities that are equally relevant to students and seniors, kindergartens or schools, and higher education or other education-related institutions.

The opportunities offered by the Foundation are available to various associations, business or non-governmental organisations and other structures seeking to improve their business practice or enhance their employees' qualifications.

Besides the Erasmus+ Programme the Foundation also administers other educational programmes or initiatives such as Euroguidance, Europass, eTwinning, EPAL, and Nordplus programme funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Education Exchanges Support Foundation represents Lithuanian Higher Education abroad with the project „Study in Lithuania“, which is funded by the European Social Fund. The aim of the project is to strengthen Lithuanian Higher Education image and position in international environment.



The SEPIE is the Autonomous Organism depending on the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, which acts as a National Agency for the Erasmus+ Program and participates in international projects.

In addition to its role in boosting the international visibility of the Spanish university system and facilitating student, research and faculty exchanges, the SEPIE is in charge of managing a variety of international scholarship and cooperation programs in partnership with its counterpart entities and government Departments of Education in other countries.





European Networks and Agencies for Internationalization

3rd Conference



Student visas in Europe: procedures, issues and best practices

09:00 REGISTRATION

Opening session

Moderator:

Vincenzo De Luca

General Director for the Country Promotion

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

09:30 *Paolo Gentiloni*

Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

09:35 *Stefania Giannini*

Italian Minister of Education, University and Research

09:40 *Filippo Bubbico*

Italian Vice Minister of Interior

09:45 *Giuseppe Novelli*

Vice President of the Conference of Italian University Rectors

09:50 *Cesare Romiti*

President of Uni-Italia

10:00 DEBATE

Student visas in Europe: procedures, issues and best practices

Moderator:

Enrico Sartor

Director, International Relations, Ca' Foscari University, Venice

Will take part in the debate:

Giulio Del Federico

Central Visa Unit - Directorate General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Mr Rait Toompere

Chairman of board, Archimedes Foundation
Centre for Academic Mobility, Estonia

Mr Kevin van Cauter

Senior Higher Education Adviser, Internationalization
British Council, United Kingdom

Benoît Tadié

In charge of scientific and university cooperation,
Embassy of France in Italy and Campus France, France

Mr Tobias Bargmann

Director of DAAD Information Center Rome, Germany

Ms Daiva Šutinytė

Director, Education Exchanges Support Foundation, Lithuania

Mr Pablo Martín González

Director, SEPIE, Spain

12:00 CONCLUSIONS

Moderator:

Carlo Naldi

Chairman of Uni-Italia Scientific Committee

12:15 Meetings between european agencies for internationalization

13:00 and italian universities and afam institutions

The universities and the Afam institutions attending meets the European Agencies for Internationalization present to the event



European Networks and Agencies for Internationalization



Uni-Italia

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