

# Challenges for Scholars in Multicultural Societies

## The Case of the European University

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# Magna Charta Universitatum

- Signed by 388 rectors in Bologna on 18 September 1988
- Now 662 signatories in 78 countries
- Fundamental principles and values
  - Institutional autonomy
  - Academic freedom
  - Link between teaching and research

# Magna Charta Observatory

- Founded in 2001 by University of Bologna and European Rectors Conference (now EUA)
- Based at the University of Bologna
- No membership

# Activities

- Monitoring function
  - Convenor
  - Advisor
  - Think tank
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- Worldwide scope of activities

# The European University

- Concept rather than reality
- Universities as places of multiculturalism
- Change in 19th century (nation states)
- Waves of immigration in the second half of the 20th century
- Universities became again multicultural in terms of the student body
- Bologna Process

# Preconditions for ICD

- Awareness
  - Prejudices; mobility
- Attitude of openness / tolerance
  - Limits of tolerance
- Critical thinking
- Teaching and research
- Participation

# Teaching and learning environment

- Need to address ICD in all aspects of university life
- Diversified teaching body
- Mobility of staff
- Culture of teaching/learning/assessment
- Attitude to recognition
- Culture of respect (of authorities)

# The European University - a Utopia?

- Concept: model existing in European countries
  - Importance for national identity
- Staff / students
- Study programmes
- Legal status
- Multilingualism



# Contact

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