



Annual Report 2021

EUPHE – Rue Belliard 20 – 1040 Brussels - Belgium
1. Legal constitution, statutes and seat

The European Union of Private Higher Education (EUPHE) is the European umbrella organization of the national associations of non-state universities from Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. It is an international, non-profit association under Belgian law with its seat in Brussels, registered in Annex B of the Moniteur Belge as "association internationale sans but lucratif" under number 715444977.

It is registered in the Transparency Register of the European Union under the number 686513034091-83. The entry was updated in November 2021

Its statutory purpose is:

- the exchange of experience and standards of good science in non-state higher education.
- to develop common positions of non-state universities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).
- to represent the interests of non-state universities to the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international authorities dealing with higher education.
- to monitor higher education policies in the EU countries and European initiatives in this area.

On its meeting in Madrid on 16 November 2018, the General Assembly of EUPHE has laid out its policies in the following

DEKALOGUE of the European Union of Private Higher Education

1. Non-state universities are the expression of a free, vibrant, democratic and self-responsible civil society, which believes that higher education is so essential that it requires the participation of both state and non-state universities.
2. Non-state higher education institutions reflect the plurality and diversity of the European higher education system and support the freedom of choice of citizens in higher education.
3. Non-state universities offer their students study courses on the current state of science and didactics to meet the needs of society and economy.
4. Non-state universities respond quickly and effectively with an entrepreneurial spirit to ever changing requirements for the qualifications and competence of students with tailor-made programs.
5. In their programs, non-state universities combine scientific expertise with practical competences in high-value-added programs for students.
6. Non-state universities, as independent institutions, want to contribute to the development of a dynamic, motivating, efficient and outcome-oriented higher education system.

7. Non-state universities support European higher education in global competition with a customized and market-oriented approach.
8. Non-state universities are committed to the principles of justice, accessibility and social inclusion in higher education and enable the participation of all students with tailor-made programs to enable them to professional and social advancement. Non-state higher education is understood as the education of the people by the people.
9. Non-state universities emphasize the willingness of students and teachers to perform and support the promotion of talented students regardless of their social background.
10. Non-state universities contribute with their entrepreneurial commitment to attractive job opportunities in higher education.

This DEKALOGUE is complemented by the

Five demands on the EU and European Governments

1. To guarantee legally academic freedom and institutional autonomy of non-state universities and their academic staff in all EU Countries as an essential value of a free and democratic society.
2. To respect and protect academic freedom, diversity and independence of non-state universities in their legislation and administration.
3. To guarantee fair coexistence of state and non-state universities regarding legislation, administration and public funding.
4. To guarantee the establishment and operation of non-state universities in all EU Countries in accordance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Treaty on the Working Field of the Union, the General Agreement and Trade Agreement (GATT) and the European Services Directive 2006/123/EC.
5. To give unrestricted access to higher education and research programs of the European Commission for state approved non-state universities.

2. Members

At the beginning of the reporting year, EUPHE had the following members

Austria:	AUSTRIA PRIVATUNIVERSITIES KONFERENZ ¹ (ÖPUK), Am Kahlenberg 1 - 1090 Vienna
France:	UNION DES GRANDES ECOLES INDEPENDANTES (UGEI) ² 11 rue Carrier-Belleuse - 75015 Paris, UNION DES NOUVELLES FACULTES LIBRES (UNFL) ³ 70 Avenue Denfert-Rocherau - 75014 Paris
Germany:	VERBAND PRIVATER HOCHSCHULEN (VPH) ⁴ Bonhoefferstr.1 - 69123 Heidelberg´
Ireland:	THE HIGHER EDUCATION COLLEGES ASSOCIATION (HECA) ⁵ C/O Griffith College, South Circular Rd, Dublin 8, D08V04N.
Poland:	UNIwersytet Humanistyczny Społeczny (SWPS) ⁶ Chodakowska 19/31 - 03-815 Warszawa
Portugal:	ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DO ENSINO SUPERIOR PRIVADO ⁷ (APESP) Av. da República, 47 1º Dto. 1050 - 188 Lisboa
Spain:	ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ESCUELAS DE NEGOCIOS (AEEN) ⁸ Centro Derecha, Calle de Velazques, 27 - 28001 Madrid

After HECA from Ireland joined in 2020, the Slovenian association of non-state universities, Skupnost SAMOSTOJNIH VISOKO OLSKIH Zavodov (SSVZ)⁹ Einspieljeva Ulica 6, 1000 Ljubljana joined EUPHE in March 2021. Associated with EUPHE for Croatia is the ALGEBRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Ilica 242 in Zagreb,

In total, the associations mentioned represent around 700 non-state universities, with about 1,36 million students and about 100.000 staff.

3. Bodies

EUPHE has two bodies:

a) The **General Assembly** as the main body responsible for

¹ See www.oepuk.ac.at

² See www.ugei.fr

³ See www.unfl.fr

⁴ See www.private-hochschulen.net

⁵ See www.heca.ie

⁶ See www.swps.pl

⁷ See www.apesp.pt

⁸ See www.aeen.org

⁹ See: www.skupnost-svz.si

- a. Changes to the articles of association and the rules of procedure
- b. Appointment and removal of board members
- c. Discharge of the board members
- d. Approval of the budget and the treasury
- e. Dissolution of the association
- f. Exclusion of members

The following persons were delegated by the member associations to the General Assembly¹⁰:

Alonso, Antonio (AEEN, Spain),
 Boyance, Michel (UNFL, France),
 Cieslak, Roman (SWPS, Poland)
 Conlan Trant, Andrew (HECA, Ireland),
 Copetto, Miguel (APESP, Portugal),
 Craye, Etienne (UGEI, France)
 Doncieux, Bertrand (UNFL, France),
 Hekking, Klaus (VPH, Germany,
 Jacoby, Marcin (SWPS, Poland),
 Nicolle, Jean-Michel (UGEI, France)
 O` Sullivan Patricia (HECA, Ireland),
 Redondo, João (APESP, Portugal),
 Ruiz, Jorge (AEEN, Spain),
 Thuy, Peter (VPH, Germany),
 Toplak-Perovic, Barbara (SSVZ, Slovenia),
 Wöber Karl (ÖPUK, Austria).

The General Assembly convened four times in 2021, including three as video conference due to the restrictions of COVID 19 pandemic.

The subjects of the discussions of the General Assembly included:

- admission of the Slovene Private University Association SSVZ,
- deliberations on a comparative study on the situation of non-state universities in Europe,
- change of the statutes,
- participation in public consultations of the European Commission,
- EUPHE membership in international organizations,
- approval of the budget and the annual account,
- reports from the member associations on the situation of non-state universities in their countries.

¹⁰ here mentioned without academic titles

b) The **Board of Directors** as the managing body, responsible for day-to-day administration. The following personalities belonged to it in the reporting year:

Klaus Hekking, President (VPH)
 Jean-Michel Nicolle, 1st Vice President (UGEI)
 João Redondo Duarte, 2nd Vice President (APESP)
 Karl Wöber, 1st Treasurer (ÖPUK)
 Bertrand Doncieux, 2nd Treasurer (UNFL)
 Jorge Ruiz, Secretary General (AEEN)
 Marcin Jacoby, Associate Member (SWPS)

The Board met in connection with the General Assembly, prepared its meetings and dealt with the matters mentioned there.

3. Activities

In 2021, EUPHE's main activities were the following:

a. Admission of the Slovenian Association of Private Universities SSVZ

After the admission of HECA, Ireland, in 2020, EUPHE was able to welcome another member. At the General Assembly on February 24, 2021, it was unanimously decided to admit the Slovenian Association of Private Universities **Skupnost samostojnih visokošolskih zavodov (SSVZ)** as a full member. SSVZ represents 35 non-state universities in Slovenia and is the representative of non-state universities in Slovenia, legally recognized by the government.

b. Extension of membership

In the reporting year the Board sought membership of associations in further European countries (Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Netherlands and Romania,). It turned out that there are no own associations of non-state universities in these countries.

With the existing members, EUPHE has largely exhausted the potential of associations of non-state higher universities in Europe. EUPHE can achieve an even better representation in Europe only if it makes use of the statutory possibility to win individual non-governmental universities from the countries without their own university associations as members. Since this fundamentally affects the architecture of the association, the General Assembly should take a fundamental decision on this issue.

c. Participation at the Conference "All About People: Digital Transformation in Science, Education and Arts in Slovenia, March 2021

Invited by our new Slovenian member SSVZ, President Hekking represented EUPHE at this conference, organized by the non-state University Alma Mater Europea, Maribor

which was held as a hybrid conference (face-to-face and virtually) under the auspices of the Slovenian President, Mr. Borut Pahor and with the participation of the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Marija Gabriel. A total of about 2000 participants, among them attended this widely acclaimed conference.

President Hekking spoke in the section "Competitiveness in Higher Education" on the topic " Non-State Higher Education in Europe - Driver of Progress".

The paper is attached as an appendix.

d. Comparative Study “ The Alternative - Non-state Universities in Europe”

The main activity of EUPHE in 2021 was the preparation of the comparative study on non-state higher education in Europe. The aim was to obtain for the first time a comprehensive overview of the political, legal, economic framework for non-state universities in the European Union. All member associations provided data from their associations for this purpose. The study was prepared and edited by Klaus Hekking with special support of Estelle Macabre (UGEI) and Patricia O'Sullivan (HECA).

The German edition was published by the Berliner Wissenschaftsverlag in September 2021 as a print and EBook version under the title "Die Alternative - Nichtstaatliche Hochschulen in Europa".

Also published by Berliner Wissenschaftsverlag will be an English edition under the title "The Alternative - Non-state Higher Education in Europe" at the end of 2021.

Our member associations UGEI and UNFL have prepared a French edition, which will be distributed as a PDF to selected target groups in France.

The study does not only compare the conditions for the establishment and operation of non-state universities in the 27 EU-Countries but also identifies national regulations which can be seen as discriminatory for non-state universities and hinder their fair competition in the higher education market. They could be the subject of initiatives by EUPHE vis-à-vis the European institutions.

Now that a grid for such a comparison is available, consideration can be given to updating the study in the coming years.

e. Membership of EUPHE in International Organizations

Board and General Assembly also discussed EUPHE's membership in international organizations in order to expand the association's network and increase its visibility at the European level. As a result of the deliberations, it was decided to first apply for membership in the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe, for which EUPHE as a new organization meets largely the requirements.

The application was submitted in September 2021 for 2022. A decision on this will be made by the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe in February 2022.

f. Statements in Public Consultations of the European Commission

EUPHE, as an organization accredited to the EU, has the opportunity to participate in public consultations on EU initiatives in education and higher education.

EUPHE participated in the following Public Consultations of the European Commission during the reporting year, which were published on the European Commission's "Have your say" website.

- Education for environmental sustainability
- Initiative on individual learning accounts
- Microcredentials for lifelong learning and employability
- European Strategy for Universities
- Building Bridges for Effective European Higher Education

g. Survey about National Fee Arrangements for the Use of Copyrighted Works by Member Universities.

At the request of our German member VPH, a survey was conducted by EUPHE on the national regulations in EUPHE-Countries on the use of copyrighted works by member universities.

It turned out that there are very different arrangements here, ranging from fee-free use to student- or staff-related user fees with a great span of the fees

It should be discussed in due course whether this could lead to distortions of competition in the European internal market to the detriment of non-state universities and whether EUPHE should take initiative vs. the European institutions

h. Meeting of the president with the Chairman of the CDU-Group of the EPP faction in the European Parliament, Daniel Caspary, MEP

Due to the COVID 19 restrictions, meetings with officials and elected representatives of the European institutions were only possible to a very limited extent in the reporting year.

In September 2021, President Hekking had the opportunity to meet the chairman of the CDU group of the EPP parliamentary group, Daniel Caspary MEP, and to hand over the comparative study to him. It was also agreed on this occasion to establish

contact with the Chair of the Committee for Culture and Education for a presentation of EUPHE.

i. Meeting of the General Assembly with the Chairwoman of the Committee for Culture and Education of the European Parliament, Mrs. Sabine Verheyen, MEP

On the occasion of the General Assembly on December 1st and 2nd, the General Assembly had also the opportunity to meet with the Chairwoman of the Committee for Culture and Education of the European Parliament. On this occasion, discussions were held on how EUPHE can be better integrated into the European network.

j. Meeting of the General Assembly with the Director for Higher Education of the European Commission. Mrs. Vanessa Debiais-Sainton

On December 9th the General Assembly had also the opportunity to meet with the Director for Higher Education of the European Commission. Mrs. Vanessa Debiais-Sainton. On this occasion, discussions were held on how EUPHE can be better integrated into the European network.

k. Revision of the Statutes

In 2022, a revision of the statutes of EUPHE will be necessary in order to adapt them to the changed Belgian law for non-profit organizations. The Board is preparing a new version of the Statutes accordingly.

l. Relaunch of EUPHE-Website

In the reporting year, a relaunch of the EUPHE website was commissioned to the company Digital Talents in Zagreb. The aim is to make communication with users more interactive and at the same time to better convey EUPHE's messages.

The Board of Directors would like to thank all members for their good cooperation and support in 2021.

Brussels, December 2021

Board of Directors

Hekking, Nicolle, Redondo, Wöber, Doncieux, Ruiz, Jacoby