

EUGLOH ANNUAL SUMMIT 2021

Shaping the Future of Global
Health and Well-being



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UNIVERSITY OF PORTO, PORTUGAL

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University of Porto, Rectorate Historical Building (Praça Gomes Teixeira, 4099-002 Porto Portugal)

It was very rewarding for the University of Porto to be the host institution for the EUGLOH Annual Summit 2021 and to be able to foster a stimulating and fruitful exchange of ideas, results and conclusions concerning the future of the Alliance.

Despite the constraints that the pandemic continues to impose on Europe, it was possible to successfully hold the 1st EUGLOH Annual Summit. During three intense days, the EUGLOH partner institutions discussed crucial matters to the future of the Alliance, with significant progress made in various areas of academic cooperation.

I believe that we have taken firm steps towards enhancing levels of integration, mobility and cooperation between the EUGLOH partner institutions. New prospects for the relation between partners have opened up, not only regarding teaching, training and mobility, but also in the domain of research and innovation.

The EUGLOHRIA project has created well-founded expectations of scientific consolidation and cooperation, bearing in mind the development of each one of the partner institutions and the transition to a more innovative, competitive and sustainable Europe.

After this summit, we are, indeed, in a better position to optimise the EUGLOH partner network, extending the Alliance to new members and broadening our intervention to other areas of academic, scientific and cultural cooperation.

The current conditions are ideal for EUGLOH, with its focus on global health, an area paramount to the future of our societies, to be consolidated and expanded. The pandemic crisis has highlighted the importance of a global and multidisciplinary approach to health. It is now plain for all to see that investment in health is crucial not only for health safety in the Union, but also for Europe's human development, social cohesion, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

There is now greater willingness to invest in health in the European Union, following an integrated, multidisciplinary and synergistic approach. EUGLOH must therefore be capable of taking advantage of the extraordinary allocation of European funds in the health sector and related fields.

We must continue to work together so that we can overcome the barriers to full cooperation, mobility and exchange that persist in European higher education. This is the only way for us to maximise our opportunities and respond to the challenges that arise from the European Union's New Strategic Agenda, the new generation of European funds and the technological revolution currently underway.

It is vital that we coordinate efforts among our academic communities, under a common strategy to produce knowledge in the field of global health and promote its transfer to Europe's social and economic fabric. We must strive to reinforce EUGLOH's position within Europe's science and innovation system. To achieve this, we will need to mobilise the critical mass, technological infrastructure and innovation ecosystems of all the partner institutions.

The willingness of EUGLOH's partner institutions to strengthen academic cooperation, introduce more innovative models of exchange, improve the interface among scientific communities, and streamline resource and knowledge sharing, was notable.

This brings about exciting prospects for EUGLOH to become an even more solid, dynamic and multidimensional Alliance. An Alliance with a growing impact on European higher education and on Europe's material and human development.

António de Sousa Pereira
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