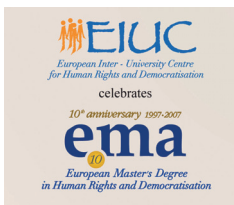


EIUC CELEBRATIONS FOR THE E.MA 10th ANNIVERSARY



It was back in March 1997, when a group of dedicated academics led by Prof. Antonio Papisca (University of Padua) and Ms Daniela Napoli (Head of the Unit 'Human Rights and

Democratisation' at the European Commission) met, that the project of a European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) was initiated. What was then launched in the Summer of 1997 as a pilot project in the field of higher education for the promotion of human rights and democratic values - in recognition of the UN decade for human rights education - turned out to be a tremendously important experience for the about 800 graduates now holding the European Master's Degree and for the 41 European universities currently participating in the project.

With a strong commitment to carry forward this endeavour, the EIUC President Prof. Horst Fischer, E.MA Chairperson Prof. Manfred Nowak, and Secretary General Dr. George Ulrich engaged in organising a series of events celebrating the E.MA 10th anniversary:

- a **matinée roundtable discussion** on the Prospects and Priorities for the Humanisation of the International Order,
- the **awarding ceremony** of the E.MA graduates 2006/2007,
- a **photo exhibition** on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals with pictures by the British photographer and documentarist, Nick Danziger, Director of the EIUC Summer School on Cinema and Human Rights.

Visibility to the celebrations was provided by organising a press conference in cooperation with the Municipality of Venice, and by advertising in local newspapers and in the main vaporetto stops.

On Friday, 21 September 2007 after the meetings of E.MA Governing Bodies, the **E.MA Study Fair 2007** took place in the cloister of the Monastery of San Nicolò.

Representatives of all the universities participating in EIUC/E.MA met the students and members of the public interested in learning about the Centre's activities. Students had the chance to collect some first hand information on their possible thesis topics and second semester placement possibilities at the E.MA participating universities. A pleasant gathering for E.MA students, professors and family members was organised in the monastery cloister on the evening Saturday 22 September. Everyone enjoyed the relaxed and joyful atmosphere, in particular in view of the successful completion of E.MA final exams that same afternoon, and took the occasion to view the panels representing the winning pictures of the 2007 EIUC Photo Competition on Visualising Democracy and Human Rights.



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EIUC Voice

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EIUC MATINEE ON THE PROSPECTS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE HUMANISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER

Sunday 23 September started with a **matinée panel discussion** devoted to the theme **Prospects and Priorities for the Humanisation of the International Order**. The **matinée event** took place in the Sala del Piovego of Palazzo Ducale.



Prestigious speakers in the panel discussion were Abdul G. KOROMA, Judge, International Court of Justice; Manfred NOWAK, E.MA Chairperson, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture; Martin SCHEININ, UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and

Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism; Gianfranco DELL'ALBA, Head of Cabinet, Italian Ministry for European Affairs; Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT, Vice-President, European Parliament; Bernd EISENBLATTER, Managing Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH; and Vladimir VOLODIN, Chief of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Section, UNESCO. Attendants to the discussion were welcomed by Luana ZANELLA, Councillor of the Municipality of Venice. The moderator of the discussion was Horst FISCHER, EIUC President.



From left to right: Edward McMillan-Scott, Vladimir Volodin, Gianfranco Dell'Alba, Manfred Nowak, Martin Scheinin, G. Koroma, Horst Fischer, and Bernd Eisenblätter.



Almost 500 persons attended this year's E.MA Degree Awarding Ceremony that took place on Sunday 23 September 2007 in the beautiful Scuola Grande di San Rocco in Venice. The ceremony, hosted by Cà Foscari University of Venice, Univirtù and Arciconfraternita di San Rocco, was

especially significant as it marked the 10th anniversary of E.MA cooperation.

Accompanied by the Folies d'Espagne for cello and strings performed by Interpreti Veneziani, the event started with the solemn entrance of Rectors and Professors of the 41 E.MA Participating Universities.



Horst FISCHER, EIUC President, welcomed the audience and emphasised the special character of the ceremony. He expressed "gratitude to all those who have been supporting us from the very beginning, from the first meeting in the Palazzo Ducale to the point where we can now look back at a decade of human rights education. Let me just mention the European Commission RELEX, the European Commission now AIDCO, the Region of Veneto, the City of Venice, our local partners here in the city, the universities, all the professors that have been working for the programme for the last 10 years, and obviously also the rectors and university administrations, who receive the students in the second half of the academic year. We are proud to be able to celebrate the 10th anniversary with all of you in this wonderful setting".

Other welcoming addresses were given by Pier Francesco GHETTI, Rector, Cà Foscari University of Venice; Franco POSOCCO, Guardian Grando, Arciconfraternita di San Rocco; Jaime ORAÁ, Rector, University of Deusto - Bilbao; Massimo CACCIARI, Mayor of Venice; Rita ZANUTEL, Councillor, Province of Venice; and Alberto TESSERIN, Vice-President, Regional Council, Region of Veneto.

Massimo CACCIARI, Mayor of Venice, explained: "It is in fact clear that human rights have undergone a historical and political genesis; their expression represents without a doubt one of the highest achievements of Western humanistic tradition. How may we therefore harmonise the culture of human rights with other traditions and languages in a present-day positive way?".



Moreover he added: "There is the need for an inter-cultural work of communication and mutual comprehension which will require our best intellectual energies over the next decades, intellectual energies which will evolve also thanks to this Master's Programme".

A special anniversary address on "10 Years of E.MA Experience" was offered by **Antonio PAPISCA**, the initial European Programme Director of E.MA and Director of the Interdepartmental Centre on Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples at the University of Padua.



He underlined the absolute originality of the organisational scheme and the already substantive, consolidated acquis of the Master.

The Former Programme Director proudly stated that "E.MA, and what was being developed

in connection with it, is a master piece of educational art and of transnational academic cooperation". He then declared: "If I had to summarise 10 years of E.MA life in few words, I would repeat what I wrote 4 years ago when I concluded my service as Director of the E.MA Programme: constant curriculum-development, constant inter- and trans-university institution-building, constant in kind expenditure of didactic and scientific energies ('in kind' is the bureaucratic translation of 'generous volunteering' in a co-financed project) and, finally, I would stress the right persons in the right place, since the E.MA foundation and developments are marked by the 'plural' and by the 'joint' commitment of so many colleagues, so many academics."

E.MA graduates of 2006/2007 and students of the academic year 2007/2008 were also privileged to be addressed by prominent personalities such as Emma BONINO, Italian Minister for International Trade and European Affairs; Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT, Vice-President, European Parliament; and Vladimir VOLODIN, Chief of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Section, UNESCO (speaking on behalf of Pierre SANÉ, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO).



In her committed address **Emma BONINO** praised the Masterini as a beautiful community of European young professionals: "Here at the EIUC/E.MA, there is constant encouragement to go beyond the human rights specialists' community, in order to reach the wider public. ... When you are fighting for human rights, you

cannot expect success if you work behind closed doors. You need to go public, and to involve the public. You need the support of the people, and the pressure people can exercise on their governments. Clearly, this is not a complementary approach. This is the approach."

Video messages were sent by two other very important individuals who have contributed to the success of the E.MA project but were unable to attend its 10th anniversary celebration in person. In her recorded message **Benita FERRERO-WALDNER**, Member of the European Commission in charge of External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, reminded us that "strengthening human rights and fostering democratisation are key objectives of the European Union's foreign policy, and education and training are vital instruments to achieve these goals. Human rights education directly contributes to upholding and defending the universal principles of individual freedom, pluralist democracy and the rule of law. These principles are not only the fundament of our own Union, they are the basis of the open societies without which globalisation cannot work. ... Most important of all this Programme has always attracted an outstanding group of students. Their dedication to human rights has been and is the secret of the success of this programme. The more than 800 Venice alumni have built a tight network of expertise that spans the globe from EU institutions to foreign ministries, from the media to NGOs. Their work is indispensable to strengthen human rights and to sow the seeds of good governance worldwide. ... Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, let me reiterate the appreciation of the European Commission for the achievement of the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation. Rest assured of our continued support for this programme, which is making such a significant contribution to the advancement of global values and thus of human security".



The video message sent by **Mary ROBINSON** for the E.MA 10th anniversary was a vivid bridge between past and present history of this successful Master's Programme. In her message for the opening ceremony in 1997, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights declared: "This European Master Degree will provide a unique academic, research and training environment in close contact with the practice of international organisations active in the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of democracy. In doing so, this multidisciplinary programme can build a network of high-level specialists dedicated to the cause of human rights and the establishment of a universal culture of human rights". In her video message for the 2007 ceremony, Ms Robinson, nominated EIUC Honorary President in 2005, referred to the 60th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and underlined: "The 39 universities that are involved in the EIUC can give a particular impetus to marking this anniversary year. Since I became an Elder, with other Elders - invited by Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel - we have been focusing on ways to revitalise human rights. What better way than to have 39 universities sharing research, exchanging and building the programme that has been developed over the past 10 years? ... It is my firm intention to try to be with you in person next year in Venice during that special academic year."

Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT, Vice President of the European Parliament, thanked in particular Emma Bonino, Horst Fischer, George



Ulrich, and Daniela Napoli: "Emma Bonino, not only an outstanding Minister and previously an outstanding Member of the European Parliament and Member of the European Commission, but also an outstanding humanitarian. Emma, your contribution to this field will last for a very long time so thank you for all that. ... Horst Fischer, whose tireless dedication to the promotion and sustaining of this institution is a fantastic tribute to his commitment, and the fact that we have now got to ten years and, as was just said, are now on a more firm financial footing, is largely thanks to Horst. ... George Ulrich and his day-to-day work for the institution. ... and Daniela Napoli, behind the scenes, always moving this project forward". The EP Vice-President declared in his speech: "If the democracy backlash exists, I believe it is our duty as the European Union, working with all the resources available to us, whether it is the European Initiative or the Aid Budget or political capacity through the Council or Commission or the European Parliament, to fight back. And, Ladies and Gentlemen, this course is part of that fight back, by training people to understand the values of democracy and human rights. Democracy and Human Rights are the fundamental values of the European Union. Let us celebrate that too".

After the warm applause to Lena BARRETT and Marta UDINA, student representatives who addressed their fellow friends in the E.MA adventure, the most awaited moment of the ceremony began. This was the awarding of the European Joint Degree to the 10th generation of graduates, the Masters 2006/2007, by Anja MIHR, current E.MA Programme Director, and by the Rectors, Directors and Professors of the E.MA universities.

Manfred NOWAK, the E.MA Chairperson, next announced the awarding of E.MA Internships to the 15 best students



and introduced the E.MA Awarded Theses for the academic year 2006/2007. The Chairperson expressed "sincere gratitude and deep admiration to two human beings, who are both present here today

and who have already been mentioned, without whose visionary ideas and tireless practical efforts it would not have been possible to award one single Master Degree to one student during these last ten years; that is Antonio Papisca and Daniela Napoli. ... Daniela Napoli, at that time responsible for the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights at the European Commission in Brussels, provided and ensured the funding, but she also ensured through her presence in our governing bodies that the EU interests are well taken care of, firstly by monitoring that EU funds are used in the most economical manner, secondly by ensuring that our universities co-finance the programme, and thirdly by insisting that EU human rights policies are at the centre of what we teach to the students".



George ULRICH, EIUC Secretary General, announced the winners of the Internships offered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in Eschborn (Germany) and by Fundación Tres Culturas in Seville (Spain). He also took the occasion to warmly thank the EIUC Staff, who

have persistently worked behind the scenes with great dedication, both during the course of the academic year and in preparation of the present illustrious ceremony.

The anniversary celebration ended with the official opening of the academic year 2007/2008 by the Rectors, Directors and Professors of the E.MA universities.

A publication dedicated to the E.MA 10th anniversary will be edited by EIUC. Below are some other selected excerpts from distinguished speakers.

Pier Francesco GHETTI, Rector of the Cà Foscari University of Venice, asserted: "It is my firm belief that we, as educators, all share a common responsibility to create better lives for all humanity. The Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratization, together with its graduate students is therefore our chance to make a difference".

Recalling his role as E.MA Director in the pioneers years



of the European Master, **Jaime ORAÀ**, now Rector of the University of Deusto, Bilbao, marvelled at: "the spirit shared 11 years ago among a very small group of mad and crazy people gathered in the Palazzo

Ducale to initiate this extraordinary joint venture, which after 10 years has become one of the most prestigious masters of Europe devoted to this important area for the future of humankind, that is the education for the respect and promotion of all human rights, for all human beings under links with democracy".

Rita ZANUTEL, Councillor of the Province of Venice, expressed her concern about the monitoring of the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals that shows serious breaches and delays, and stated: "The most urgent need is that of a new economic world order, based on social justice, on human development, and on guaranteed human rights for all. Institutions will have to commit more seriously and continuously, making coherent political choices in close relationship with civil society. Only then will it be possible to promote a universal human rights culture. The activities of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization constitute a fundamental contribution to this necessary process of transformation. For this reason, I would like to congratulate the graduates on their achievement."



Vladimir VOLODIN, Chief of the Human Rights and Gender Equality Section, UNESCO, read part of the message by **Pierre SANE**, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences: "For ten years already, E.MA has been making a valuable contribution to the advancement of human rights in Europe and in the world. The Programme applies an innovative approach that successfully combines two important objectives: to provide, on the one hand, a solid theoretical background and, on the other, a good understanding of practical requirements and difficulties encountered at grassroots level. With its growing number of graduates, now about 800, E.MA has been fuelling various entities working in the field of human rights at the national, regional and universal levels with competent specialists. ... The aims of UNESCO and E.MA converge to a great extent. For a number of years we have closely cooperated in promoting education, training and research in the field of human rights. The commemoration of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration should therefore serve as an opportunity to double our efforts to ensure dignity and justice for all of us. We consider the EIUC, E.MA and its graduates as privileged partners in our efforts to make the provisions of the Declaration a reality."

EIUC Events on Democracy and Good Governance in the MENA Region, Spring/Summer 2008

by Dr George Ulrich, EIUC Secretary General

A new focus for EIUC in the Spring/Summer 2008 is on events targeting young leaders for democracy and good governance in the Middle East and North Africa. To this end



EIUC has reinforced its existing cooperation with GTZ in the framework of a joint project on 'Good Governance in the Maghreb Region' and has initiated a new cooperation with International IDEA.

Together with IDEA we will be hosting a one-week workshop in the Monastery of San Nicolò from 25-31 May 2008 with the title *Young Leaders in Democratic Governance in the MENA Region*.

Together with GTZ, and with the support of the Law Faculty of the University of Marrakech, we will organise a *Summer Academy on Good Governance* in Marrakech, Morocco, from 28 June-6 July 2008.



Both events will be undertaken with the organizational assistance of the Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Centre, based in Tunis.



Following the remarkable success of the study *Beyond Activism: The impact of the resolutions and other activities of the European Parliament in the field of human rights outside the European Union*, which was undertaken by a team of EIUC researchers in 2006, the European Parliament has commissioned EIUC to produce two further studies.

A study on *The human rights records of the Members of the UN Human Rights Council* has been primarily prepared by EIUC staff members Elisabetta Noli and Alberta Rocca under the supervision of EIUC President

Horst Fischer and Secretary General George Ulrich, and with input from students and EIUC visiting scholars. The study has been completed in a preliminary version at the end of February 2008.

A second study, more of the nature of a policy paper, on *The role of the European Union in the Human Rights Council* has been undertaken by a group of EIUC-associated scholars under the leadership of Jan Wouters of Catholic University Leuven and Jan Klabbers of the University of Helsinki. Iulia Motoc (Bucharest), Nadia Bernaz (Galway), Ludo Hennebel (ULB, Brussels), and

Sudeshna Basu (Leuven) have all contributed material to the study, which was presented to the Parliament in a draft version on 29 February and is due to be completed by 25 May.

EIUC has been invited to present both studies in the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament on 14 April, and will seize this as a welcome opportunity not only to contribute the EP debates about the work and prospects of the UN Human Rights Council, but also to further raise EIUC's own profile within the EU institutions.

EIUC & E.MA at the EU Studies Fair 2008

by Corinna Greco, EIUC Information & Publications Manager

As in recent years, the call for applications for the **E.MA academic year 2008/2009** was supported by the presence of an EIUC stand at the **InfEuropa of the European Commission and the Council of the European Union** in Brussels. From January until March 2008, visitors (mainly trainees and officials of the European institutions, but also groups of students from many countries) had at their disposal advertising materials for the E.MA Programme and a sample of the latest EIUC publications.



Students from India at the EIUC stand

In the second week of February, Corinna Greco, EIUC Information & Publications Manager, presented the course

and other EIUC activities such as the EIUC Summer School on Cinema & Human Rights, international conferences, and training seminars to the guests of the InfEuropa.



On Saturday 16 February 2008, potential applicants to the E.MA 2008/2009 had the opportunity to meet Corinna at the EIUC stand at the **EU Studies Fairs 2008** organised at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Brussels by European Voice, a Brussels-based weekly newspaper covering EU affairs. The continuous flow of visitors to the EIUC stand were welcomed

by Corinna and by Evelina Russo, EIUC Administrative Secretary, who provided them with all practical information about the programme and how to apply.



In terms of nationality, most of the visitors to the stand were Belgian and German. The most frequent academic backgrounds were European Studies, Law, International Relations, Political Science, Communication and Journalism.

EIUC Summer School on Cinema and Human Rights 2008

by Manuela Torri, EIUC Project Officer



The **EIUC Summer School on Cinema and Human Rights** brings together students and professionals from all over

the world involved in the fields of Human Rights and Cinema to reflect on the use of cinema as an instrument for enhancing human rights awareness.

The third EIUC Summer School on Cinema and Human Rights was officially opened on 23 August 2007 by George Ulrich, EIUC Secretary General, and Nick Danziger, the EIUC Summer School Programme Director, who welcomed the 19 international participants. The 2007 Summer School took place from 23 August until 12 September within the framework of existing partnerships with UNESCO, the Venice Biennale, and the Human Rights Film Network. The programme included watching films and engaging in conversation with prominent film directors present at the Venice Film Festival.

Facilitators of the teaching modules and workshops were drawn from leading experts from the EIUC academic network, human rights activists, and the cinema world.

The **2008 EIUC Summer School** is scheduled to take place from **21 August until 10 September**. The call for applications was launched in December 2007 with a deadline for application on 2 May 2008.

Documents to be downloaded are available at www.cinemahumanrights.org

EIUC Calendar 2008

April:

- * 11-12: meetings of the E.MA Academic Curriculum Group (evaluation of first semester courses 2007/2008 and planning of 2008/2009) + E.MA Executive Committee (decision on ranking of applications for 2008/2009) + EIUC Board;
- * 12-13: Authors' meeting *Human Rights: the European Idea* CUP volume edited by Profs Ingram and Lehnert;
- * 21-23: EIUC PhD Seminar on 'Interdisciplinary Research Methodology' and 'Challenges Related to the Protection of Human Rights at the National Level'.

May:

- * Start of the enrolment procedure for the E.MA academic year 2008/2009;
- * 2: Deadline for applications to the EIUC Summer School on Cinema and Human Rights 2008;

- * 25-31: Seminar 'Young Leaders in Democratic Governance in the MENA Region', organised in cooperation with International IDEA.

June:

- * 28 June -6 July: Summer Academy on Good Governance in Marrakech, Morocco, to be organised in the framework of the EIUC/GTZ project on 'Good Governance in the Maghreb Region'.

July:

- * 11-13: Expert-Authors' meeting on the volume *Reconciliation, Human Rights, and Democratisation*;
- * 14: Deadline for submission of E.MA theses 2007/2008;
- * 18-19: EIUC Diplomatic Conference 2008;
- * 19-20: EIUC Advisory Board meeting, E.MA Executive Committee meeting + EIUC Board meeting.

August:

- * 20: Start of the EIUC Summer School on Cinema and Human Rights 2008 - 4th edition (end on 10/09/2008).

September:

- * 26: Meetings of E.MA and EIUC governing bodies;
- * 27: E.MA theses defence;
- * 28: Awarding ceremony to the E.MA graduating masters 2007/2008.

Next Publications

- * *Human Rights: the European Idea*, edited by Profs Attracta Ingram and Jean-Paul Lehnert for CUP;
- * *E.MA Awarded Theses for the academic year 2006/2007*, Marsilio Editori, Collezione 'Ricerche', June 2008 (ISBN 978-88-317-9548).