



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

# ASSEMBLEA GENERALE UNA EUROPA

Bologna, 27 novembre 2024

---

## ***Il benvenuto del Rettore Giovanni Molari***

**Dear Fellow Rectors, Colleagues, and students,**

Welcome to the University of Bologna, which has the great pleasure of hosting the Una Europa General Assembly. A warm welcome to Rectors, colleagues, and students from the 10 universities of Una Europa.

The University of Bologna is the oldest university in the Western world, but is always looking forward and elaborating innovative visions, thanks to the amazing work of each and every member of its vast community.

The University of Bologna constantly participates in the activities and supports Una Europa, an alliance among leading European universities.

Una Europa exemplifies the power of collaboration, crossing borders and institutions to shape the future of education, research, and societal engagement.

In current times of challenges like the pandemic, climate change, digital transformation, the energy crisis, wars in Europe and the Middle East, and inequality, universities must act as leaders and collaborators.

Dramatic examples of extreme weather events have dramatically impacted two countries belonging to Una Europa, Italy and Spain, and we all want to express here our deep solidarity, but also our commitment to joining efforts to address the problem.

Further challenges are currently related to governmental reductions in financial resources devoted to universities. This is affecting our countries as well. In such a scenario, it is more important than ever to work jointly. We have to reaffirm the fundamental importance of academic institutions in national and global contexts, and the crucial and transformative role of inter-institutional academic relations at the international level. This has also been highlighted by Mario Draghi in his recent inspirational speech.

Our alliance can play a leading role in this respect.

Together, we make significant progress in interdisciplinary educational innovation, joint research, and mobility programmes, as shown by our joint degree programmes, lifelong learning certificates, Winter and Summer Schools, and seed-funded projects.

In the past few years, bonds among students, faculty, and staff have strengthened significantly.

The dedication of rectors, leadership teams, faculty, administrative staff, and students are central to Una Europa's success.

We jointly express our gratitude for everyone's commitment and call for continued sharing of ideas and inspiration.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank all our academic and administrative staff for the constant effort and the great support in organising the general assembly.

I hope you all deeply enjoy your stay in Bologna and have a great time both at the university and around the city.