



*Academia de Cultura Europea*  
*Fundación Academia de Cultura Europea*



## PRINCIPLES

### History and background

The Academy of European Culture has been established based on more than 25 years' accumulated experience at the Foundation for the Promotion of Europe (AEFE). This has demonstrated the need for an institution working in depth on the four basic elements of the culture of our old/new Europe: arts, sciences, literature and technology.

The Academy of European Culture (\*) fully accepts the principles of the AEFE and is capitalising on the experience it has accumulated, focusing on promoting, protecting and implementing culture in all disciplines and at all levels, looking towards the future.

As this is a huge task, ambitious in terms of content and extensive as regards subject matter, a Foundation (the Foundation of the Academy of European Culture) is also needed, as an institution supporting and at the same time interacting with the Academy to provide it with legal security and economic independence.

The Academy and the Foundation work from different angles for the same purpose, independently but together.

The Academy and its Foundation are taking up the baton from the pioneering intellectuals who forged the Europe we know and want to unite, such as Victor Hugo: "Et de l'union des libertés dans la fraternité des peuples naîtra la sympathie des âmes, germe de cet immense avenir où commencera pour le genre humain la vie universelle et que l'on appellera la paix de l'Europe" (A sympathy of spirits will spring from the union of liberties in the brotherhood of peoples to become the seed of this tremendous future in which universal life and what we will come to call peace in Europe will begin for humankind).

## Core values of the Academy of European Culture and its Foundation

The Academy of European Culture and its Foundation began as a civic initiative aimed at spreading, projecting and studying European culture, understood as a common area of ethical reflection concerning the tangible and intangible heritage deriving from many centuries of exchange between societies which are finally recognising one another through the values of universal and human rights, civil liberties and democratic roots. In this sense, it is intended to offer spaces for debate on the objectives of a freer, more participatory Europe, guaranteeing equal rights for all European citizens in opposition to the isolationist temptations that are making electoral progress in some States, inside and outside the European Union.

As a result of this, we believe the time has come when European citizens want to face up to the development of the modern world, its future challenges and projections and find out about it from all angles.

Bringing together likeminded people to make joint efforts is the task of the Academy of European Culture and the job of the Foundation of the Academy of European Culture is to support it. The contribution is intended to be useful and is aimed to promote the common good. It arises from bringing together our intentions and the contributions we can modestly make, knowing that the mightiest rivers begin at simple springs – "fontibus ex modicis concrescit maximus amnis", as the medieval saying has it.

The importance of culture cannot be stressed enough. This is summarised by the essayist Ángel Ganivet: "A cultured people is a free people; a savage people is a slave people; and a people educated casually, without effort, is an ungovernable people. The freedoms we have are not gracious concessions of the law." (Cartas Finlandesas, IV, ed. 1915, p. 38). Meanwhile, half a century later on the other side of the Atlantic, H.G. Wells declared that "Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe".

Firstly, it is a matter of protecting the cultural and spiritual heritage of Europe – its origins and evolution – preserving the works of the past (visual and dramatic arts, literary works, etc.) and respecting their richness and diversity.

Secondly, we must promote everything that constitutes the basis and foundation of the different and diverse aspects of Western civilisation all over the world.

Thirdly, we work to bridge the cultural gaps between the countries and peoples of Europe, particularly in terms of employment, taxation, the law, health, education and so on in order to unify and grow to achieve a Europe with equal opportunities for peace and progress for future generations.

The Academy for European Culture and its Foundation adhere to the “Charter of Paris for a New Europe”, signed on 21 November 1990 at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and we are in complete agreement with its terms: “In order to promote greater familiarity amongst our peoples, we favour the establishment of cultural centres in cities of other participating States as well as increased cooperation in the audiovisual field and wider exchange in music, theatre, literature and the arts. We resolve to make special efforts in our national policies to promote better understanding, in particular among young people, through cultural exchanges, co-operation in all fields of education and, more specifically, through teaching and training in the languages of other participating States.”

We affirm the need to promote culture to encourage respect for principles that are free of blinkered, dogmatic doctrines and ideologies and to ensure the preservation of the principles agreed in the Paris Charter.

Lessons from the last few years lead us to conclude that the policies of States are not managing to fill the gaps that have emerged with the digital revolution in the information age. Mutual enrichment through cultural exchange does not arise spontaneously; it is due to multiple individual and collective efforts. And we cannot and must not leave all cultural initiatives exclusively in the hands of the political authorities. For this reason, civil society must organise itself to help achieve the objectives on which our civilisation depends, agreed at supranational level.

We recall the words of a speech by André Malraux, a writer and Minister of Culture in the cross-party government that followed the liberation of France in 1945: "La culture ne s'hérite pas, elle se conquiert" (Culture is not inherited, it is conquered).

### **Core values of the Academy of European Culture and its Foundation**

We assume the responsibilities incumbent on us concerning all areas of culture and the integration of new technologies, the proper use of electronic devices and the respectful handling of information received and sent. We intend to safeguard the common cultural heritage and its diversity as fully and authentically as possible.

We are aware of the imperative need to establish ethical codes ensuring liberty, privacy and equality of treatment based on the essential freedom of expression and creation.

Taking note of the opportunities offered by cooperation with public and private institutions, we base ourselves on people, following the noble vision of Jean Monnet, "father" of the European Union, when he declared: "Nous ne coalisons pas des États, nous unissons des hommes." (We are not linking States: we are uniting human beings).

Because of this, in order to achieve our aims, we will avoid any involvement with political and/or economic interests that might disturb the core values of the Academy of European Culture, which are also the core values of the Foundation. We will carry out various activities, which we will list here, to the best of our ability, although we make no attempt to be exhaustive.

### **Activities**

- Providing perspective and forward thinking concerning the roots of European culture down to our time.
- Spreading and promoting the European cultural dimension (all disciplines of arts, sciences, literature and technology), supporting research, analysis and publication in all areas, expressed chronologically.
- Promoting the profile of the organisation, as far as possible and appropriate, in relation to other cultural, artistic and scientific institutions.

- Encouraging student exchanges and contribute to aid for all kinds of studies and research (registration fees, grants, etc.) on cultural, artistic and scientific problems throughout Europe, publishing the results of the studies and research.
- Congresses, seminars, educational and sporting activities, concerts, competitions, lectures, round tables, exhibitions, events and other forms of cultural exchange.
- Consultations, opinions and evaluations, including written or oral negotiations. Establishing rules and subsequent documentation.
- Publishing printed and electronic books, journals and documents.
- Building, promoting and running museums and cultural institutions, as well as exhibition halls, archives, libraries and/or facilities.
- Granting credentials, certificates and diplomas, distinctions, awards and prizes to people and official or private institutions, associations and organisations.

### **Nature, structure and operation**

The Academy of European Culture and its foundation are non-profit, non-governmental organisations aimed at achieving a more cultured, open, secure European society showing greater solidarity and mutual support, and with better quality of life, with no distinctions in terms of beliefs, ideologies, social position, etc. The aim is to build a peaceful Europe in a democratic context of freedom, solidarity and concord and to contribute to promoting and putting into practice the values that unite us.

The territorial field in which the Foundation of the Academy of European Culture and its foundation will carry out its activities corresponds to the geographical area covered by all European States.

The Foundation will work with any institutions sharing its objectives, always orientated towards increasing cooperation. "There is not a more accurate test of the progress of civilisation than the progress of the power of cooperation" (John Stuart Mill in *Civilisation*).

With respect for all European languages, including Latin, the vehicular languages will be Spanish, English and French.

Biannual conferences will be held where the works, studies, publications, reports, events, competitions, etc. from the intervening period will be debated and explained with academic rigour. At the closing gala dinner, awards will be made to individuals, official or private institutions and European organisations that have made an outstanding contribution in the arts, sciences, literature and technology. These biannual meetings will take place in the capitals of different European countries, always interspersed with the headquarters of the Central Governing Council.

There will also be at least one office in each European State, preferably in their capital cities.

The name and logo of the Academy of European Culture are protected for the whole European Community, with entries in the corresponding sections of the Property Register.

The Academy of European Culture and its Foundation began in 2018, the "European Year of Cultural Heritage".

The Academy and Foundation began when they were declared to be of public utility and general interest by the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

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The future of the old/new continent and the defence of culture and the values of democracy as a sign of Western civilisation – diverse, cultured and competitive, while showing solidarity – are at stake.

Culture unites in diversity and is a symbol of peace, freedom and progress.

“More battles are won with the pen than with the sword” (attributed to Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra)

[www.academiaculturaeuropea.es](http://www.academiaculturaeuropea.es)  
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**(\*) We understand European culture as being the sum of its different national and citizen cultures that must be preserved. In lay terms, it is based on Greco-Roman civilisation and, in religious terms, on Christian, Arab and Jewish cultures.**