



Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante

Conferencia AIUTA

11 y 12 de Junio de 2015

IAUTA brings together the Universities of the Third Age of all continents and has maintained for more than four decades the defence of seniors through lifelong education by means of university exchanges and, above all, innovations in the fields of education and scientific research seeking to ensure that each person can find their place within society.

Created in 1973 at the University of Toulouse by Prof. Pierre Vellas, IAUTA currently gathers over 30,000 Universities of the Third Age in all five continents through members of the National Associations dedicated to adult education, which correspond to the European University of the Third Age model –U3A; and it exceptionally accepts partners working in research and training for seniors.

From its birth in France, it has been gradually extending around the world, the main countries currently represented in IAUTA being, in alphabetical order: Germany, Australia, Brazil, Canada, USA, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Spain, Greece, India, Mauritius and Rodrigues, Italy, Martinique (French West Indies), Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Slovakia, Sweden, Senegal and Switzerland.

IAUTA has a Pedagogical Council which presents –from the field of pedagogy– seminars and workshops open to as many partners as possible, for the purpose of making them familiar with the innovations in the context of training and education which are carried out in some Universities of the Third Age and serve as a reference for other partners to be able to adopt such innovations in training actions: language courses, culture, ongoing and adult teaching techniques, etc.

This is one of the primary aims sought with the organisation of International Conferences like the one that will be held at the University of Alicante on June 11th and 12th, 2015. On this occasion, the participation of U3A leaders coming from eighteen countries has already been confirmed so far: Germany, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Spain, France, India, Iceland, Italy, Mauritius and Rodrigues, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Russia, Senegal, Slovakia, and Sweden. They will share their pedagogical and methodological experiences, as well as the educational innovations carried out by U3As. The Closing Lecture given by Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, currently President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, and Director of UNESCO between 1987 and 1999, under the title *"Longevity, social cohesion and world citizenship in the new era that is approaching"* will put the finishing touch to this IAUTA International Conference.

Similarly, those attending the conference will have the chance to know the outcomes and progress typical of scientific research in the specific area of Senior Training and Lifelong Learning, which have been dealt with in national and international projects developed by U3As. These research initiatives and best teaching and pedagogical practices resulting from multidisciplinary teams are shown and shared for the benefit of IAUTA partners in particular and, more broadly speaking, of senior training all over the world. Inside this scientific research field, IAUTA's Scientific Council has established an action programme which leads to reference publications, and that scientific work is performed within a multidisciplinary framework for the purpose of providing evidence and advances in areas such as seniors' health, the economic impacts of ageing or the actual reality and economic needs of older adults, both in the legal field and in training as a whole. Such works are

collected in the publication “*Cahiers de Recherche de l’AIUTA*,” which provide the link between U3As for all priority scientific research areas.

The topic of this International Conference: “U3As, Citizenship and Social Cohesion [*Universidades de la Tercera Edad, Ciudadanía y Cohesión Social*]” highlights one of the priorities of U3As in the 21st century, namely: the need to delve deeper into ongoing and lifelong training and to focus on senior training as a key aim in the reduction of poverty and social exclusion among the older segment of the population. Recognizing the value that corresponds to older adults’ experience together with the inescapable need for their social presence as active and integrated citizens in their own right appears as an unquestionable priority. In this respect, U3As have clearly assumed the role of spreading this message about the need of recognition for older adults, about the fact that their integration is an essential goal, and also about the commitment that this entails to promote seniors’ ongoing training.

It is an ambitious aim which requires the participation of all Universities of the Third Age, gathered in IAUTA during this International Conference at the University of Alicante, which has formed part of this international association since 2004. That is why, as the host member and as a university strongly committed to Lifelong Training for Seniors through the Programme *UNIVERSIDAD PERMANENTE* [Permanent University], we warmly welcome all the participants to the University of Alicante and hope that our hospitality will help you feel at ease in your work during these days and also that this will lead to a fruitful outcome and to the fulfilment of the objectives proposed.

The meetings will take place at the University of Alicante Town Venue at Calle San Fernando on June 11th, and the activity as well as the sessions will continue at the San Vicente University Campus, more precisely at the Conference Room of *Aulario* [Classroom Building] II on June 12th. The working languages will be English and French, the reference languages within the international context of IAUTA.

In addition to the guest speakers, some twenty posters will be presented that bring together a variety of research initiatives and training experiences at U3As.

[DOWNLOAD PROGRAMME \(PDF\)](#)

Visit the International Conference website at: <http://web.csidiomas.ua.es/congresos/aiuta/index.html>