

Book presentation: *Transformar la Universitat*

Cercle d'Economia

Minister,
President,
Vice President,
Professor Gallifa,
Professor Sangrà,

Competition is often seen simply in terms of rivalry, but it also shares links with the idea of competence, and building skills and knowledge. Sharing competence has a multiplying effect; sharing expertise benefits us all collectively, while also benefitting us individually, because learning is mutual. In terms of knowledge, it's just as important to reach our goal as it is to make sure no one is left behind.

"In terms of expertise, it's just as important to share yours as it is to take on board that of others."

That's why, when Editorial UOC received the proposal from Professor Gallifa and Professor Sangrà to coordinate a book on the transformation of universities, we were happy to help.

With academic and scientific authority, and eleven interviews with experts from five continents, the book provides a global, empirical, philosophical and ideological vision of how our universities must be transformed. The greatest expertise and the most important knowledge are of no use if they remain confined to our classrooms, libraries, laboratories and campuses.

"It's no coincidence that one of the antonyms of competence is ignorance."

You'll all remember the famous quote by Derek Bok, president of Harvard, "if you think is education is expensive [and we could add research and innovation], try ignorance!"

That's why it's so important that **universities be proactive in the design and transformation of our society, our productive capacities and our horizons.**

There are two magnificent examples right here. The institution hosting today's event is the result of a productive meeting of minds between the historian Jaume Vicens Vives and some, at the time, young and inquisitive entrepreneurs. Sixty years on and the Cercle d'Economia remains a leading light.

Likewise, the minister, Gemma Geis, personifies both a commitment to Catalonia's academic community and the necessary return of the Department of Research and Universities to the Catalan Government's Executive Council.

This book by Dr Sangrà and Dr Gallifa calls on us to persevere with these successful experiences and be brave enough to take on new ones. Experiences, not words. It's difficult to predict the future of universities, but experience must play a part.

The challenges, opportunities and proposals covered in the book call on us all... both in the university system in general and in government administrations or private institutions that are committed to digital transformation.

And I'll end with a threefold recommendation: As a publisher, buy the book. As a university president, read the book. And as a member of society, let's talk about the book. Our future depends on it!

Thank you very much.