

Message of Condolence from the H2CU Center

It is with profound sadness that the H2CU – Honors Center of Italian Universities – receives the news of the passing, on July 29, 2025, of Professor Lucio Ubertini, founder and tireless soul of this academic initiative. Lucio Ubertini was not only an outstanding scientist and promoter of university cooperation, but also a true mentor and teacher, capable of inspiring generations of students, professors, and researchers.

With his visionary perspective, Professor Ubertini created a unique space for dialogue, education, and cultural growth through H2CU, opening the doors of international mobility to hundreds of students across all academic fields – from engineering to medicine, from humanities to economics – and turning the dream of a globally-oriented Italian education into a concrete reality.

Alongside his academic commitment, Professor Ubertini held high-level institutional roles, contributing with rigor and expertise to the protection of the territory and the advancement of hydrological sciences. He was Director for thirty years of the Research Institute for Hydrogeological Protection (IRPI) of the CNR, President of the National Group for the Defense against Hydrogeological Disasters, member of the Italian Commission of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and a key figure in Italian Civil Protection. Internationally, he represented Italy in UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, and held a ****UNESCO Chair**** focused on sustainable access to water. His scientific authority also earned him membership in prestigious academies, including the Accademia dei Georgofili and the Academia Europaea.

His steadfast dedication to the H2CU project, as well as to College Italia, transformed the idea of academic excellence into a system of real opportunities, based on trust in young people, collaboration among universities, and international openness. His teaching extended well beyond science: every encounter with him was a chance for human and intellectual enrichment.

Lucio Ubertini combined scientific rigor with profound ****humanity****, generously offering his time, experience, and care. He was a shining example of ****intellectual honesty**** and boundless generosity toward students, colleagues, and institutions. His human qualities – always attentive, respectful, and sincere – will remain a guiding light for all who had the good fortune to work with him.

To his beloved family – his wife Loretta, an engineer like him, his sons Francesco, Stefano, and Filippo, all distinguished academics, and his many grandchildren – we extend our deepest sympathy and affection. They are embraced by the heartfelt thoughts of the entire H2CU community, in Italy and around the world.

Dear Lucio, you taught us that excellence is built together, and that knowledge is meant to

be shared. We will continue your path with gratitude and responsibility, honoring every day the trust you placed in us.

Prof. Beatrice Vallone
Director of the H2CU Center