

# 'Charles V' prize to Italian professor who invented Erasmus

Prestigious award in Spain with King Felipe

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*Sofia Corradi, the Italian professor who invented Erasmus*

ROME - She has been known across Europe as the 'mother of the Erasmus' program. Almost 30 years after she invented the exchange program among European university students, Italian Professor Sofia Corradi, 82, was awarded at the monastery of Yuste in Caceres, Extremadura (Spain), the prestigious prize 'Charles V', which has been awarded over the years to personalities who have contributed to European construction. The prize came after a life dedicated to enabling European youth to study in foreign countries. And thanks to her, a former professor of Permanent Education at the University Roma Tre, who taught until 2004, four million university students from 4,000 universities were able to travel.

The prestigious award comes thanks to an idea born at the University of Bologna. Professor Corradi's candidature was made by an international research group on interpretation and inter-cultural mediation Alfaqueque and in particular at the initiative of Mariachiara Russa, a member of the research group and a professor of Spanish language at the Department of Interpretation and Translation of the Alma Mater.

The ceremony was attended by Italian Education Minister Stefania Giannini, who thanked Corradi for her "extraordinary work. We owe to her obstinacy the Program that has completely revolutionized the lives of our offspring, contributing to European construction".

It is necessary to "defend Europe and its values from tendencies that, anachronistically, try to divide it by calling on irrational fears and uncertainty", said Italian President Sergio Mattarella in a message sent to the king of Spain and the Foundation European Academy de Yuste during the ceremony to award the prize to Professor Corradi.

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