This programme, building on the success of the previous IFCU programes of the same title, aims to assist participants, within the context of the Catholic identity of their institutions, to:

- Understand and analyse the nature and significance of the environmental challenges confronting their institutions.
- Undertake a preliminary evaluation of the missions, health and effectiveness of their institutions/entities.
- Assess how mission can be reinterpreted, contextualised, and evolved in the light of its basic values and contemporary circumstances.
- Develop and refine the outlines of strategic plans for the development of their institutions/entities.
- Assess their own styles of leadership and develop appropriate processes for the effective formulation of policy and the management of challenge.
- Understand the nature of institutional cultures and the relationship with approaches to institutional change.
- Enhance their institutions/entities' capacity to be agents of societal change in various domains – spiritual, social, educational, ethical, economic and cultural.
- Develop leadership and management approaches.

The programme will:

- Focus on the specificity of the Catholic identity including the nature of a Catholic university; the Catholic intellectual tradition etc.
- Be oriented to specific generic issues in the management and leadership of this type of HEI and will be supported by learning derived from policy and consultancy projects undertaken by tutors, and participants' own management experience.
- Focus on issues and concerns identified by participants.
- Be action oriented, in the sense that concrete approaches to the defined issues will be identified and the design of action plans will be facilitated.
- Be strategic in orientation, relating to the longer term integrated development of the institution.
- Be international and comparative, in that good practices relating to common issues will be derived from the experience of other Programme participants in their settings and from other international contexts provided by tutors and the literature.
- Be collaborative, in the sense that participants will help and support each other in the attempt to find approaches to their challenges and advice on the dynamics of leadership.
- Respectful of the spiritual origins and values of these HEI in the development of strategic approaches.
This will assist participants to consider and plan for the implementation of key strategic priorities for the development of their universities, including plenary presentations of a framework for strategic planning and management; excellence in education and research; engagement with the community and stakeholders; financing; QA; and personnel. Critical factors in successful and sustainable universities will be analysed, and consideration given of participants’ particular concerns together with provision of advice on issues raised in small group sessions.

This stand will consider major issues in the Higher Education environment and the consequences and opportunities for institutions, including: HE internationally, the Church, societal and economic questions, via presentations and discussions, including from the Congregation and figures in international HE.

This will consider the role of the Rector in leading institutional change and development, including institutional cultures, typologies of change strategies and associated approaches, dynamics and stages of institutional change and policy formation, resistance to change, leadership styles and organisation and governance.

These will be covered in “open box” sessions where matters emerging from the small group sessions and individual SWOTs will be analysed and approaches considered. These might, for example include: internationalisation, research strategy, teaching and learning, HR and additional income sources.