



Brussels, 14-02-2024

Coimbra Group joins the conversation on Open Science

1. Since 1985 the Coimbra Group Universities have been recognized for embracing tradition to foster innovation. In 2021, we engaged our members in constructive discussions about the **future of research assessment**. With their support we participated in the drafting of the [European Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#) and in the creation of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment ([CoARA](#)), which we have joined as a founding member.
2. Today, we take another step and announce our **strong support for the movement towards open research information** - defined as information relating to the conduct and communication of research, currently unfolding in the higher education sector. That includes **more open and transparent University rankings**.
3. The Coimbra Group stresses that transitions in how research information is provided must **respect the equal importance of all disciplines**, including the Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts.
4. We shall **contribute to the European conversation** on open research information and related issues. We will bring to these discussions the **diversity of perspectives** and the **expertise** available in our network of leading long-established European comprehensive universities.
5. Coimbra Group is equally proud to announce its **support of the initiative “[More Than Our Rank](#)”** developed in response to some of the problematic features and effects of the global university rankings. By supporting this initiative, we are demonstrating a commitment to responsible assessment and to acknowledging a broader and more diverse definition of institutional success. We look forward to engaging with like-minded institutions and umbrella organisations shaping this global community.
6. We stand **ready to participate in the future** at the forefront of other relevant collective initiatives.
7. We will **raise awareness among our members** of the importance of Open Science and will actively **promote dialogue** on this important topic.
8. For our members we will facilitate a **deeper understanding of the issues and opportunities at stake**, in the full respect of each individual institution’s strategy - as we have always done.
9. We shall gently nudge **our communities** by engaging both the management level and the academics and administrative staff active through our thematic Working Groups and by offering our trustful collaborative environment for mutual learning and exchange of experience.

This statement is the result of constructive and focused discussions of members of the Coimbra Group Executive Board and Coimbra Group Rectors' Advisory Group in the past months, with the input of experts from the wider higher education community.

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— Coimbra Group Rectors' Advisory Group

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