



Member Universities

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Durham (UK)
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Leiden (NL)
Leuven (BE)
Louvain (BE)
Montpellier (FR)
Padova (IT)
Pavia (IT)
Poitiers (FR)
Praha (CZ)
St. Petersburg (RU)
Salamanca (ES)
Siena (IT)
Tartu (EE)
Turku (FI)
Uppsala (SE)
Vilnius (LT)
Würzburg (DE)
Åbo (FI)

Executive Board

Chair: Prof. Dorothy Kelly (Granada)

dkelly@ugr.es

Prof. Jürgen Barkhoff (Dublin)

jbrkhoff@tcd.ie

Prof. Jeff Haywood

jeff.haywood@ed.ac.uk

Prof. Johnny Laursen (Aarhus)

jl@au.dk

Prof. Henri Luchian (Iași)

hluchian@info.uaic.ro

Prof. Joaquim Ramos de

Carvalho (Coimbra)

vr.joaquim.carvalho@uc.pt

Prof. Lenka Rovna (Prague)

lenka.rovna@ruk.cuni.cz

Prof. Ludovic Thilly (Poitiers)

ludovic.thilly@univ-poitiers.fr

Office

Egmontstraat 11, rue d'Egmont
BE-1000 Brussels

Director: Ms Inge Knudsen

Knudsen@coimbra-group.eu

Ms Anna Quici

Quici@coimbra-group.eu

Ms Catarina Moleiro

Moleiro@coimbra-group.eu

Ms Cristina Tanase

Tanase@coimbra-group.eu

Tel. + 32 2 513 83 32

Fax + 32 2 513 64 11

<http://www.coimbra-group.eu>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

University of Edinburgh
Reid Concert Hall
Bristo Square

9 June 2017, 10.30am-1 pm

Agenda

- Welcome by the Honorary President**
- Approval of the Agenda**
- Approval of the minutes of the 2016 Coimbra Group General Assembly**
[DOC: A.2.2 GA2016-DraftMinutes](#)
- Report from the Coimbra Group Executive Board**
[DOC: A.2.2 EB Report for GA 2016](#)
- Report from the Coimbra Group Office**
- Report from the Administrative and Financial Committee and formal decision regarding approval of Accounts 2016, Revised Budget 2017, Budget 2018**
- Formal decision regarding a new Coimbra Group member***
- 3MT competition**
[DOC: Coimbra Group Three Minute Thesis Final](#)
- Election of five members to the Executive Board***
- Working Group Reports and formal approval of Work Plans**
- Report from the Closed Rectors' Meeting**
- Award ceremony Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students**
[DOC: http://www.coimbra-group.eu/activities/arenberg-prize](http://www.coimbra-group.eu/activities/arenberg-prize)
- Presentation of the 2018 General Assembly**
- Any other business**
- Closure**

(*) Ballot forms were distributed at the General Assembly. Each university has one vote per election. Holders of a proxy letter/mandate received an additional ballot form. Any given Coimbra Group University may only carry one single extra mandate.

Draft Minutes

Present:

CG Universities:

Aarhus Universitet
Universitat de Barcelona
Universitet i Bergen
Università degli Studi di Bologna
Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, ELTE
Universidade de Coimbra
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
University of Edinburgh
National University of Ireland Galway
Université de Genève
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Universidad de Granada
Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași
İstanbul Üniversitesi
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena
Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakowie
Universiteit Leiden
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Université Catholique de Louvain
Université de Lyon
Université de Montpellier
Università degli Studi di Padova
Università degli Studi di Pavia
Université de Poitiers
Univerzita Karlova
Санкт-Петербургский государственный университет
Universidad de Salamanca
Università degli Studi di Siena
Tartu Ülikool
Turun yliopisto
Uppsala universitet
Vilniaus universitetas
Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg
Åbo Akademi

Members of the Executive Board:

Dorothy Kelly, Chair (Granada)
Jürgen Barkhoff (Dublin)
Jeff Haywood (Edinburgh)
Henri Luchian (Iași)
Joaquim Ramos de Carvalho (Coimbra)
Lenka Rovna (Prague)
Ludovic Thilly (Poitiers)

CG Office:

Inge Knudsen, Director
Anna Quici, Policy Officer
Catarina Moleiro, Communications Officer

Ad 1. Welcome by the Honorary President

The Honorary President, Yves Jean welcomed members of the General Assembly and handed the proceedings over to the new Honorary President, Principal Sir Timothy O'Shea. President Yves Jean knew well what it means to present one's university and therefore also highly appreciated the reception and generosity encountered in Edinburgh. He added that he felt it important to be here at this particular time with the negotiations about to start in Europe.

Sir Timothy O'Shea thanked Yves Jean for his kind words and thanked him for being such an exemplary Honorary President.

Ad 2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Ad 3. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 Coimbra Group General Assembly

The minutes were approved.

Ad 4. and 5. Report from the Coimbra Group Executive Board and the CG Office

Dorothy Kelly thanked Yves Jean and his team for a fine Annual Conference in 2016 and for the work he had done over his Honorary Presidency. She also extended her thanks to Sir Timothy O'Shea for the wonderful reception at the University of Edinburgh and the organisation, with thanks to Jake Broadhurst and his team, Soledad Garcia Ferrari, Chair of the Local Organising Group, for her coordination, Jeremy Upton for the organisation of yesterday's conference, and Jeremy Bradshaw for the organisation of the 3MT.

In her report on behalf of the Executive Board, Dorothy Kelly underlined the continued implementation of the strategic priorities ratified by the Rectors and the General Assembly, including the coordination of the activities of the Working Groups according to their work plans as approved last year at the Poitiers General Assembly. The Executive Board also continues the work on the High-Level Policy Seminars, alternating between education and research policies, with the research policy seminar at San Servolo in 2016 to be followed by the education policy seminar at Trinity College in November 2017. The Executive Board will continue to work in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to influence the future European education and research programmes in accordance with key principles and member university concerns. In January 2017, following the meeting of the Rectors' Advisory Group with Keith Sequiera, an expert group assisted the Executive Board in the preparation of the "Position Paper on Mid-Term Review of Horizon 2020". The Executive Board also took advice from an expert group to publish the "Position Paper on the Mid-Term Review of Erasmus+" in late May this year. Both position papers have been submitted to the European Commission and are available on the Coimbra Group web site.

The Executive Board followed up on decisions taken at the 2016 General Assembly on the issue of refugee relief, the Poitiers Declaration, contacts with the European Commission, other networks and associations. Furthermore, the Executive Board was mandated to oversee and co-ordinate the work of the Working Groups based on the terms of reference and work plans and report to the General Assembly and Closed Rectors' Meeting on progress. The Executive Board will commence the three-yearly staggered review process of the Working Groups in early 2018. Concerning the Communication Strategy adopted by the Executive Board, Prof. Ludovic Thilly has been commissioned to coordinate work in this area, starting with an internal review of existing communication tools; the audit is available in Annex 5.

Dorothy Kelly referred to the formal decisions to be taken at the present General Assembly, cf. agenda items 6, 7 and 9, and the voting procedure for the Three-Minute Thesis competition to take place under item 8.

The Office Director presented the report from the CG Office with reference to the report from the Executive Board and the structural changes at the CG Office. She briefly reported on the role of the CG Office in the preparations of the accounts and budgets, to be dealt with under item 6 by Dr Gelhoet, the Chair of the Administrative and Financial Committee. Other administrative functions include the CG Scholarships, the preparation of policy seminars, workshops and meetings of governing bodies of the Coimbra Group and contacts to networks, associations, the European Commission and other public bodies. The CG Office report provides an overview of the projects in which the CG Office is involved as a partner or associate partner as well as an overview of the scholarships provided by Coimbra Group Universities.

Ad 6. Report from the Administrative and Financial Committee and formal decision regarding approval of Accounts 2016, Revised Budget 2017, Budget 2018

The Chair of the Administrative and Financial Committee, Dr Markus Gelhoet, presented the report from the Committee and recommended the 2016 accounts report and the 2017 and 2018 budgets to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

The General Assembly ratified the 2016 accounts, the revised 2017 budget and the draft 2018 budget, previously approved by the Executive Board after consultation with the Administrative and Financial Committee and controlled by the external auditor. In conclusion, the General Assembly released the Executive Board members from all financial liabilities with respect to the financial management of the Coimbra Group asbl during the past year.

Ad 7. Formal decision regarding a new Coimbra Group member

Following the recommendation of the University of Cologne by Vice-Rector Pieters, KU Leuven, the General Assembly voted in favour of accepting the University of Cologne as a new member by 87 per cent of the Coimbra Group members. Established in 1388, the University of Cologne is now one of the leading German research universities. The institution is “firmly committed to the advancement of human knowledge through basic research, but with an eye to transfer and application in the real world”.

Ad 8. 3MT competition

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Doctoral Studies Working Group introduced the three finalists. After their live performance, Oisín McCormack (University of Padova) was awarded the first prize with 15 votes, followed by Tanvi Butola (University of Göttingen) with 12 votes and Maddie Long (University of Edinburgh) with 8 votes.

Ad 9. Election of five members to the Executive Board

Among the five candidates, Jürgen Barkhoff, Joaquim Ramos de Carvalho and Johnny Laursen were re-elected for a second term to the Executive Board. For the two vacancies, Daniel Donoghue and Luca Verzichelli were elected as new members of the Executive Board.

Ad 10. Working Group Reports and formal approval of Work Plans

The General Assembly approved the proposed updated three-year work plans for the Working Groups after presentation by each of the Working Groups.

Ad 11. Report from the Closed Rectors' Meeting

Principal Sir Timothy O'Shea reported on the Closed Rectors' Meeting with the theme “Towards FP9”. The meeting discussed the “Coimbra Group Contribution to the Mid-Term Review of Horizon 2020” and the recently adopted “One Voice Postcard”, signed by seven European Research networks, among them the Coimbra Group, and provided insight and advice. Upon recommendation from Rector Volli Kalm, University of Tartu, there will be a Coimbra Group presence at the forthcoming Estonian EU Presidency conference in Tallinn on 12 October next with the theme “European Research Excellence – Impact and Value for Society”.

Ad 12. Award ceremony Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students

Dorothy Kelly introduced the 2017 winner of the Arenberg-Coimbra Group Prize for Erasmus Students, Aura Nikkilä, who spent her Erasmus exchange at the University of Granada during her studies at the University of Turku. Ms Nikkilä was unanimously nominated by the Selection Committee appointed by the Executive Board. She received her award from the Duke of Arenberg.

Ad 13. Presentation of the 2018 General Assembly

The Executive Board had accepted the invitation from the University of Salamanca to host the 2018 Annual Conference in connection with the celebration of the University's 800th anniversary. A formal invitation and presentation was made by Rector Hernandez Ruipérez. The topic of the Annual Conference 2018 will be “Looking to the Future, Learning from the Past”.

The Executive Board had also accepted the invitation from the Jagiellonian University of Kraków to host the 2019 Annual Conference and that of the Charles University Prague in 2020.

Ad 14. Any other business

In connection with the General Assembly, Roberto Escalante, secretary-general of UDUAL (Union de Universidades de America Latina y el Caribe) took part in the activities of the Latin America Working Group and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Coimbra Group of Universities. Cooperation between the two networks should start soon through the exchange of PhD students and a pilot project for the Recognition of Diplomas.

Ad 15. Closure

Principal Sir Timothy O'Shea closed the session by thanking the General Assembly for its work. He added a further thank you to Dorothy Kelly, who now finished her second mandate as member of the Executive Board and was stepping down after seven years as Chair of the Executive Board. Vice-Chair Jürgen Barkhoff added his thanks to Dorothy Kelly on behalf of the Executive Board.