Equality and Diversity Working Group's
Call for contributions on

Why EDI Matters

Equ(al)ity, Diversity and Inclusion in European Universities

(book publication Fall 2025)

Equ(al)ity | Diversity | Inclusion – What is the meaning of these words today, in our universities?

What policies and practices have Coimbra Group Universities implemented to promote EDI over the last 5-10 years? What has each university achieved?

Are there any changes envisaged, or currently under development, at Coimbra Group Universities, in the strategies/policies/initiatives to promote EDI?

What alliances may Coimbra Group Universities devise in order to keep a focus on EDI in what looks like a difficult future?

These are some of the questions we would like to ask all the Coimbra Group Universities at the outset of a collective project for a book on the increasingly challenging issues of equality, diversity and inclusion. In seeking contributions on "why EDI matters" we call for proposals from members of the **Equality and Diversity Working Group** as well as from any other interested researchers and administrators across the 40 Coimbra Group members, and from all other Working Groups of the Coimbra Group. The matter of the book itself calls for an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach.

Work for equality, diversity, and inclusion happens in several ways and on multiple levels within European universities. The central administration may offer means and infrastructure for developing and implementing equal opportunities policies. Meanwhile teaching and research as well as outreach activities may focus on EDI in content, methods, and theoretical approaches, also in critical ways.

The Coimbra Group network is a space for sharing and developing such work across our many ongoing academic and administrative efforts, and for finding sustainable modes of academic work across differences. Our book on *Why EDI Matters* will offer an opportunity to focus on what good happens in our universities in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion, and to reflect on current EDI policies and practices; to ask how we may move beyond obsolete ways of thinking and teaching, and to give visibility to *what matters*, if we want our institutions to be hospitable, respectful, inclusive places of learning and living.

Possible topics/themes for contributions include, but are not limited to:

- EDI stories of achievement in CG universities
- Innovative EDI practices in CG universities
- Policy work for EDI in the university
- Bridging academic research and professional practice in EDI
- Interrelations of administrative and research perspectives on EDI
- Gender research on EDI issues
- Diversity as a fundamental value
- Teaching for equality, diversity, and inclusion
- EDI against gender violence
- EDI and curriculum development
- EDI and the work/study environment
- EDI and the question of funding (programmes)
- Intersectional approaches in outreach activities
- Inclusive recruitment into higher education
- Inclusivity and the international university
- EDI, care and social justice: putting people at the centre
- EDI and AI: challenges and possibilities

To contribute a chapter, please send your abstract in English (max 300 words)
no later than January 20, 2025, to:
annalisa.oboe@unipd.it; vera.sokolova@fhs.cuni.cz; Helena.Henriksson@gender.uu.se
jada.pontello@unipd.it; iveta.bayerova@ruk.cuni.cz

Author's guidelines:
Chapter length 5000-6000 words, including Works Cited.
Texts should follow MLA format and style

Timeline:

January 20, 2025	Abstract submission (max 300 words)
February 18, 2025	Online meeting to get to know chapter authors, discuss Abstracts and establish Workshop plans
March 31, 2025	1st draft of chapter submitted for WS; distributed across the group
April 2025	Workshop in Prague – all chapter authors read and provide constructive feedback on others' chapters (a list of designated readers will be established and distributed once contributions are in)
June 6, 2025	Final version of chapter submitted (possible 2nd WS in Bologna, 12-13 June)

Workshop participation will preferably be on-site. However, workshops will offer possibilities of hybrid format for those unable to travel. All travel expenses must be covered by the Coimbra Group member university of affiliation of the contributors.

Publication: online and open-access, by 31st October 2025 (publisher TBA).