



A tradition of innovation

General Presentation, February 2026

Commitment

Founded in **1985** the Coimbra Group is an association of **long-established European multidisciplinary universities of high international standard.**

The Coimbra Group is committed to creating special academic and cultural ties in order to **promote internationalisation, academic collaboration, excellence in learning and research, and service to society.**

It is also the purpose of the Coimbra Group to **influence European education and research policy** and to **develop best practice** through mutual exchange of experience.

One of the pioneering actors in the creation of Erasmus+, the co-creation of the European Universities Initiative, and the development of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).



Facts and figures

- Founded in **1985**
- **42** Universities from **22** European countries
- **> 1,4M** students / **> 232 000** staff members (teaching, research, admin.)
- **14.4% of all signed grants in H2020:**
 - **25%** of all RIAs, IAs and CSA projects awarded under **Pillar II**
 - **12.5%** of all ERC funded grants
 - **15.5%** of all MSCA funded projects
- **21% of all signed grants in HEU:**
 - **26%** of all RIAs, IAs and CSA projects under **Pillar II**
 - **11,7%** of all ERC funded grants
 - **20.85%** of all MSCA funded projects
- **>16%** of all Erasmus+ grants to/from CG universities



Organisation Chart

Executive Board

Ludovic Thilly Chair Poitiers	Beatrix Busse Vice-Chair Cologne	Danny Donoghue Treasurer Durham	Antonella Forlino Pavia	Dorota Malec Kraków
Coco Norén Uppsala	Nicoleta Popa Iași	João Ramalho-Santos Coimbra	Eva Voldřichová Beránková Prague	Efrem Yildiz Sadak Salamanca

Rectors' Advisory Group

Giovanni Molari <i>CG Honorary President</i> Bologna	Joan Guàrdia Olmos Barcelona	Margareth Hagen Bergen
Karen O' Brien Durham	Pedro Mercado Granada	Paul Pauli Würzburg



Working Groups

(by pillar of primary interest)

Research	Education	Outreach
Research Support Officers	Doctoral Studies	Heritage
Social Sciences & Humanities	Education Innovation	Global Partnerships
Life Sciences	Academic Exchange and Mobility	Latin America
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	Employability	Equality and Diversity

Coordination by Executive Board members
Support from Policy Officers at CG Office (Brussels)



CG Members involved in Alliances of European Universities

Aarhus (DK)

Barcelona (ES)

Bergen (NO)

Bologna (IT)

Bristol (UK)

Budapest (HU)

Coimbra (PT)

Dublin (IE)

Durham (UK)

Edinburgh (UK)

Galway (IE)

Genève (CH)

Granada (ES)

Graz (AT)

Groningen (NL)

Heidelberg (DE)

Iași (RO)

Istanbul (TR)

Jena (DE)

Köln (DE)

Kraków (PL)

Leeds (UK)

Leiden (NL)

Leuven (BE)

Louvain (BE)

Montpellier (FR)

Montpellier 3 (FR)

Newcastle (UK)

Padova (IT)

Pavia (IT)

Poitiers (FR)

Prague (CZ)

Salamanca (ES)

Siena (IT)

Tartu (EE)

Turku (FI)

Uppsala (SE)

Utrecht (NL)

Vilnius (LT)

Wrocław (PL)

Würzburg (DE)

Åbo (FI)



Alliances of European Universities with CG Members & CG partnership



Bologna (IT)
Edinburgh (UK)
Kraków (PL)
Leiden (NL)
KU Leuven (BE)



Barcelona (ES)
Bergen (NO)
Budapest (HU)
Dublin (IE)
Montpellier (FR)
Utrecht (NL)
Würzburg (DE)
Åbo Akademi (FI)



Coimbra (PT)
Iași (RO)
Jena (DE)
Pavia (IT)
Poitiers (FR)
Salamanca (ES)
Turku (FI)



Galway (IE)
Groningen (NL)
Tartu (EE)
Uppsala (SE)



Heidelberg (DE)
Prague (CZ)
Geneva (CH)



Aarhus (DK)
Louvain (BE)



Cologne (DE)



Durham (UK)
Granada (ES)
Graz (AT)
Padova (IT)
Vilnius (LT)
Wrocław (PL)



With CG as Associated Partner

Executive Board Priorities & Forthcoming Events

2025-2026

Executive Board Priorities 2025-2026

- Keeping **thought leadership** and **shared values** at the core:
 - **Campus democracy and civic engagement**
 - **Societal innovation**
 - **Open Science**
 - **Artificial Intelligence**
 - **Climate Action**



Executive Board Priorities 2025-2026

➤ **Policy shaping and strategic advocacy:**

- **FP10 and Erasmus+ programme 2028-2034**, in relation to the next MFF
- **Fifth freedom, future ERA Act**
- **European Education Area and progress towards a European Degree**
- **European Universities Initiative**
- **Dual-use research, Research Security, Science Diplomacy**
- **Research Careers and Research Assessment**
- **Full academic and scientific cooperation with the UK and Switzerland**

Executive Board Priorities 2025-2026

- Strengthening the Coimbra Group as a **catalyst for change and collaboration**:
 - **40th Anniversary celebrations** :
 - Climate Symposium (2025)
 - Forty Years of Impact: Universities and Cities Shaping a Sustainable Future (June 2025)
 - Reinventing Campus Democracy: Bridging Divides and Advancing Solutions (Nov 2025)
 - **Central role of our twelve thematic and sectoral Working Groups**



Frameworks guiding our policy & engagement

- **Magna Charta Universitatum** ([link](#))
- **Poitiers Declaration on University-City Cooperation** ([link](#))
since 2016 (in-house declaration)
- **Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment** ([link](#))
since 2022 (member of the drafting team and initial signatory)
- **Coalition for the Reform on Reforming Research Assessment** ([link](#))
since 2021 (member of the designing team and later on, CoARA founding member)
- **Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations** ([link](#))
since 2023 (initial signatory)
- **Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information** ([link](#))
since 2024 (initial signatory)
- **Durham Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainability** ([link](#))
since 2024 (in-house declaration)



Major structural initiatives

2016: Poitiers Declaration on University-City Cooperation

- Signed jointly by the Rector and the Mayor for each institution
- Establishes a collaborative framework between Coimbra Group Universities and the municipalities where they are located
- Updating process ongoing (2026)

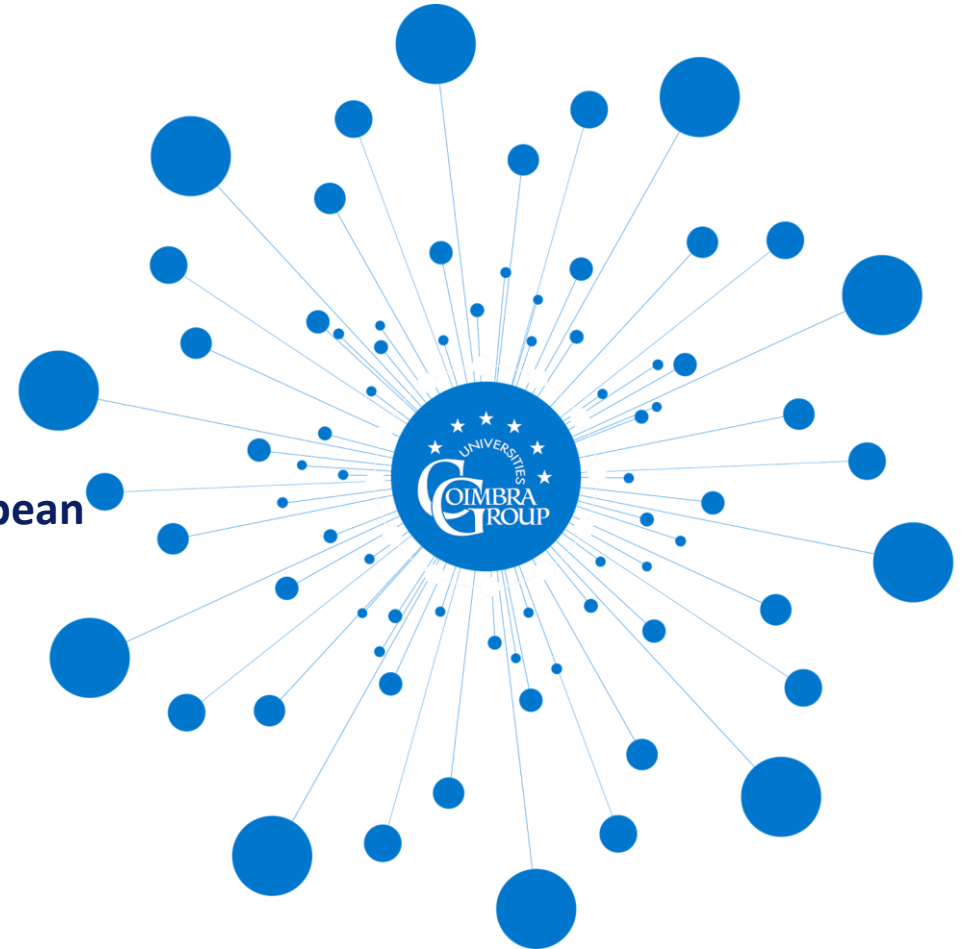
2025: Durham Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainability

- Signed by all CG Rectors in record time
- Establishes a collaborative framework for Coimbra Group Universities to scale up individual actions, accompanied by a detailed implementation Roadmap
- Overview of recent achievements: [link](#)



Institutional Partnerships

- **AUGM - Asociación de Universidades Grupo Montevideo**
since 2006
- **GCUB - Grupo Coimbra de dirigentes de Universidades Brasileiras**
since 2012
- **OAS - General Secretariat of the Organization of American States**
since 2017
- **UDUAL - Association of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean**
since 2017
- **CLACSO - Latin American Council of Social Sciences**
since 2024
- **ESN - Erasmus Student Network International**
since 2021
- **ESU - European Students' Union**
NEW - November 2025



EU Projects

- **EUNIVERSE (2023-2026)**

European Universities United in / for Values and Diversity

<https://www.euniverse-project.org>

This Erasmus+ project aims at improving **students' mobility and integration** by implementing **European values and civic engagement** initiatives into learning activities that boost student skills and intercultural understanding.

=> Final Conference on *16-17 June 2026* at the University of Granada!

- **Green Erasmus 2.0 (2025-2028)**

This Erasmus+ project aims to **drive sustainable behaviour change in mobile students** by providing effective tools to bridge the attitude-behaviour gap.

By establishing the Green Erasmus label, it will **encourage institutional change for sustainable internationalisation**.



Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

- Since 2017 the Coimbra Group has organised a 3MT competition at network level.
- The 3MT challenges **PhD students** to describe their research to a general audience in English in less than three minutes.
- In 2025, the video entries of PhD students from **29 CG Universities** competed in the first virtual round (the winner of their own institutional competition).
- **Three finalists** are then shortlisted among all winners. They compete during the CG live final taking place at the CG Annual Conference in June.



Scholarship Programmes

Background: Since 1999 the Coimbra Group has offered young researchers from outside the EU the **opportunity to carry out part of their research for a period of one to three months at a Coimbra Group University.**

The CG scholarship programme for short research stays in Europe is intended **for early-career researchers and staff from universities in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and the European Neighbourhood.**

2025-2026 Key Figures:

- **76** scholarships awarded (30 LA, 31 Africa, 15 EN)
- **440** applicants
- **21** CG host universities

Next Call for applications: End January 2026



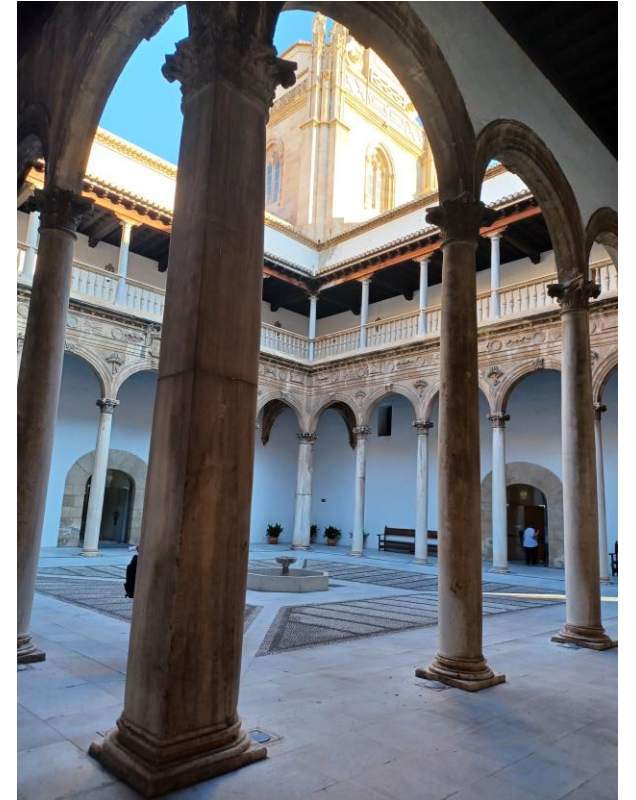
Upcoming Meetings

Coimbra Group 2026 Annual Conference
& General Assembly:

***“Transforming the local and social environment
through Research and Innovation”***

16-19 June 2026, University of Granada

- ⇒ EB meetings with CG Representatives on 17 June
- ⇒ Closed Rectors’ Meeting on 18 June pm
- ⇒ Gala Dinner on 18 June evening
- ⇒ General Assembly on 19 June am



Upcoming Meetings

Coimbra Group 2027 Annual Conference
& General Assembly:

1-4 June 2027, University of Würzburg

- ⇒ EB meetings with CG Representatives on 2 June
- ⇒ Closed Rectors' Meeting on 3 June pm
- ⇒ Gala Dinner on 3 June evening
- ⇒ General Assembly on 4 June am



Contact us!

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