## *"Challenges and future of internationalisation in the European Knowledge Area"*

The European Commission in September 2020 released three important communications: one on the achievement of the European Education Area by 2025 ("EEA communication"), one on the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027 ("DEAP") and one on the new ERA for Research and Innovation ("ERA communication"). These three communications will pave the way towards a future European Knowledge Area ("EKA"). In the discussions that will shape the EKA the Coimbra Group will play a proactive role, drawing on the education- and research-led profile of its 41 member universities, and also on its network-wide expertise in the field of physical mobility as well as collaborative and online teaching accumulated since the very beginning to the Erasmus experience.

The recent Coimbra Group article entitled "Practices at Coimbra Group Universities in response to COVID-19" published in May 2020, together with the Coimbra Group Position Paper on Digital Education Plan submitted to the Commission's public consultation on the new Digital Education Action Plan, pointed out the crucial need to foster a multi-scale reflexion on the mid- and long-term perspectives of academic mobility (students, teachers, researchers) and teaching innovation: from the viewpoints of students and teachers, but also of university managers, as well as national and European policymakers.

Without diminishing the irreplaceable and central role of physical mobility of students, academics (teachers and researchers), and staff in the building of the EKA, the Coimbra Group will now undertake a systematic assessment of the recent experiences and initiatives concerning Virtual Exchange (VE) and innovative online tools and activities (incl. courses): the proposed Coimbra Group High Level Webinar on Education Policy will take the first decisive steps in this direction via

1) a **review** of the current trends in collaborative forms of VE and innovative teaching,

2) a **multi-scale analysis** and

3) **concrete recommendations** on their future implementation and roll-out.

# Coimbra Group High Level Webinar on Education Policy
## *3-4 December 2020*

## *"Challenges and future of internationalisation in the European Knowledge Area"*

### Thursday 3 December 2020

### 14h-15h CET - Session 1: Review of challenges and opportunities

The COVID-19 emergency outbreak has had a strong impact on the academic mobility of students and staff and the teaching and learning experience, accelerating changes that were gradually beginning to take place at universities. While distance learning becomes more and more prevalent, international learning experiences remains of highest importance. What will the post-pandemic university look like?

\* <u>Moderator</u>: Jürgen Barkhoff, Trinity College Dublin, Executive Board Vice-Chair

\* <u>Keynote speakers</u>

      *- Ben Williamson, University of Edinburgh - Critical approach to digital education*

      *- Robert O'Dowd, University of León - Virtual Exchange in HE in the new EC communications and programmes*

\* <u>Coimbra Group respondents</u>

      *- Francesca Helm, University of Padova, Chair of the Education Innovation Working Group*

      *- Dorota Maciejowska, Jagiellonian University Krakow, Chair of the Academic Exchange and Mobility Working Group*

<u>Q&A Session</u>

### 15h15-16h15 CET - Session 2: Building concrete solutions via institutional innovations

Universities had to adapt in a record time to a new reality. They proved to respond with agility and flexibility to the severe disruptions caused by the coronavirus outbreak. This session will address novel approaches, experiences and initiatives implemented at international relations offices and career services of individual Coimbra Group Universities and their potential for replication to other institutions.

\* <u>Moderator</u>: Daniel Donoghue, Durham University, Executive Board member

\* <u>Examples of innovative solutions developed at the level of individual Coimbra Group Universities</u>

      *- Sara Laginder, Uppsala University - Reaction to long-term challenges for mobility posed by the pandemic*

      *- Stefania Mellera, University of Pavia - Career services' adaptations in face of the new situation generated by COVID19*

<u>Q&A Session</u>

## Coimbra Group High Level Webinar on Education Policy
### *3-4 December 2020*

## *"Challenges and future of internationalisation in the European Knowledge Area"*

### Thursday 3 December 2020

**16h30-17h30 CET - Session 3: Building concrete solutions via collaborative innovations**

What is the specific contribution of European Universities Alliances and which concrete solutions/pilot activities addressing the challenges and future of internationalisation, in connection with Virtual Exchange and innovative online tools and activities, have they successfully elaborated through transnational collaboration?

* <u>Moderator</u>: Lenka Rovná, Charles University Prague, Executive Board member

* <u>Examples of innovative solutions developed at the level of European Universities Alliances</u>

    *- Stanisław Kistryn, Vice-Rector, Jagiellonian University Krakow, Una Europa*
    *- Dorothy Kelly, Vice-Rector, University of Granada, Arqus*
    *- Dana Samson, Vice-Rector, Catholic University of Louvain & Berit Eika, Pro-Rector, Aarhus University, Circle U.*

<u>Q&A Session</u>

### Friday 4 December 2020

**10h30-12h00 CET - Session 4: Recommendations for the future of mobility and internationalisation in the European Knowledge Area**

* <u>Moderator</u>: Ludovic Thilly, University of Poitiers, Executive Board Chair

* <u>Keynote speakers</u>:

    *- Sophia Eriksson-Waterschoot, Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+, European Commission*
    *- Dirk Van Damme, Senior Counsellor, OECD Directorate for Education and Skills*

<u>Q&A Session</u>

* <u>Reports from Webinar Sessions 1, 2 and 3</u>

* <u>Round table</u>:

    *- Cisca Wijmenga, Rector, University of Groningen*
    *- Eva Åkesson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Uppsala*
    *- Beatrix Busse, Vice-Rector, University of Cologne*
    *- Kostis Giannidis, President, Erasmus Student Network*

<u>Q&A Session</u>

<u>Closing remarks</u>