

## **Joint CG-AUGM High-level Workshop**

### ***Strengthening academic collaboration between Latin America and Europe***

**December 5 and 6, Montevideo, Uruguay, (with some sessions available online)**

#### **Proposed joint event bringing together Rectors and Vice-Rectors in both networks**

##### ***Concept Note***

Higher education has undergone substantial changes in recent times, enabling the emergence of new challenges, as well as creating new opportunities. Taking as an axis, the vocation of both networks to bring both regions closer and realising new and future possibilities of cooperation between CG and AUGM, it is necessary to reflect about ongoing sector shifts together with associated challenges and opportunities that impact higher education.

In this sense, it is unavoidable to examine its significant trends, such as the importance of knowledge development and academic freedom, recognizing that the exchange of experiences and cultural, scientific and technical knowledge with common interests in both education and administration, between scholars, students and staff of both networks is of great interest for the progress of the academic life in their partner institutions and of the networks themselves.

Thinking about the need to renew and provide academic content to the agreement between the networks, we believe that this requires an event where an exchange takes place that allows strategic consolidation of the scientific and political priorities that drive Europe-Latin America cooperation in the higher education sectors. These include education, research and innovation, without omitting the social commitment of the universities even though their core mission is to be solid institutions of research and research-based education in contemporary societies

After several coordination meetings, the CG Latin America (LA) WG and AUGM Management Office have agreed on several thematic issues to lead the reflection and form the agenda of the Seminar and associated events to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, next December 2022.

##### ***Aims and Objectives:***

The general aim of the High-level meetings and related activities is to contribute to the creation of a road map for collaboration between both networks.

The specific objectives are:

- To identify the academic interests of our members compared to the perspective of the latest political priorities of Europe-Latin America cooperation, analyse the latest trends emanating from the UNESCO WHEC 2022; and update collectively the objectives and strategies to achieve the implementation of research and education, including through the MoU between CG and AUGM.
- To identify emerging areas of common interest in the cooperation across: mobility (including virtual and physical) and concrete projects for research collaboration
- Develop a roadmap that serves as a platform for the coming years of joint work, including specific activities to be carried out and an approximate timeframe with academic actions and outcomes to be achieved.

### *Innovative Character:*

This is a unique networking event, which brings together Rectors, Vice-Rectors, experts and relevant actors from both networks to discuss priorities and enable strategic planning to enhance future cooperation activities in a safe and engaging environment. In addition, the event is expected to count with contributions from representatives from other organisations with interest in Europe-Latin America cooperation, such as EU-CELAC, UNESCO Regional Office, CEPAL and regional representatives Ambassadors. In addition, the agenda will include associated meetings with funding agencies in Latin America, CLACSO, EURO Access, etc.

The work will focus on fulfilling the networks' responsibility to develop and implement several innovative approaches, such as mobility mechanisms, micro-credentials, research collaboratives, etc., to offer to members the opportunity to cross-fertilise, reinforce or adapt existing practices and introduce new methodologies of work between the two networks.

To achieve the above aims we propose the High-level Workshop and associated events to be structured around three central topics:

### ***Collaboration in HE across world regions***

This session can explore trends in formats for internationalisation and collaboration across the range of academic activities, including the exchange of students and researchers; use of ICTs, physical and virtual exchanges, advances in new collaboration processes, among others. Outcomes can include the identification of workshops and training programmes to be delivered across member institutions as well as joint activities such as conferences/sandpits for research, summer schools, or jointly delivered academic programmes.

### ***Road map for future exchange and collaboration between CG and AUGM***

In relation to research and innovation the EC "Global Approach to Research and Innovation", can be explored together with opportunities for bi-regional cooperation. Based on the ongoing mapping exercise underway across CG Universities (led by LAWG), strategic lines of joint work can be identified, with particular emphasis on synergies around the achievement of the role of universities in partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The work can explore internationalisation opportunities to enable staff and students across the two networks to engage in the implementation of joint initiatives, through providing central support for these with application and project management.

Workshops and training programmes can also be developed focused on key training needs or opportunities for sharing best practice and experiences across the member institutions.

### ***Funding and resources***

This area can identify and evaluate relevant national as well as international funding and support programmes across the member institutions, which could provide further opportunities for scholarly collaboration.

As concluding remark, it is useful to note that the event could be further impactful across both networks if it led to the creation of a ***CG-AUGM observatory or laboratory for HE*** in a post-covid world threaten by the growing impact of climate change, where international collaboration and cooperation is the only way forward. This observatory may lead to reflection over broader long-term themes such

as knowledge open access, universities' autonomy, flexibility of the curriculum, accreditation, recognition, etc.