



A tradition of innovation

General Presentation, September 2023

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**
- **40** 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	Piia Björn Turku	Antonella Forlino Pavia
Dorota Malec Krakow	Coco Norén Uppsala	João Ramalho-Santos Coimbra	Lenka Rovná Prague	Efrem Yildiz Sadak Salamanca

Rectors' Advisory Group

Joybrato Mukherjee <i>Honorary President</i> Cologne	Joan Guàrdia Olmos Barcelona	Margareth Hagen Bergen	Jukka Kola Turku
Milena Králíčková Prague	Daniela Mapelli Padova	Annetje Ottow Leiden	

Working Groups

(by pillar of primary interest)

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

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)
Göttingen (DE)
Granada (ES)

Graz (AT)
Groningen (NL)
Heidelberg (DE)
Iași (RO)
Istanbul (TR)
Jena (DE)
Köln (DE)
Kraków (PL)
Leiden (NL)
Leuven (BE)
Louvain (BE)
Montpellier (FR)
Montpellier 3 (FR)
Padova (IT)

Pavia (IT)
Poitiers (FR)
Prague (CZ)
Salamanca (ES)
Siena (IT)
Tartu (EE)
Turku (FI)
Uppsala (SE)
Utrecht (NL)
Vilnius (LT)
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)
Göttingen (DE)
Groningen (NL)
Tartu (EE) Uppsala
(SE)



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



Circle U.
European University Alliance



Aarhus (DK)
Louvain (BE)



Cologne (DE)
Leiden (NL) *until 10/23*



Bergen (NO) *until 10/23*
Granada (ES)
Graz (AT)
Padova (IT)
Vilnius (LT)



Executive Board Priorities & Forthcoming Events

2023–2024

Executive Board Priorities 2023-2024

- **Play a scene-setter role and articulate a solid vision on:**
 - Civic and Societal Engagement
 - Open Science
- **Help shaping and pioneering EU policies that are relevant for its members:**
 - EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework
 - European Education Area and European Research Area
 - European Strategy for Universities
 - European Universities Initiative
 - Research Careers and Research Assessment
 - Impact of Brexit on academic cooperation with the UK
 - Strengthening cooperation with Switzerland
 - International cooperation beyond the EU



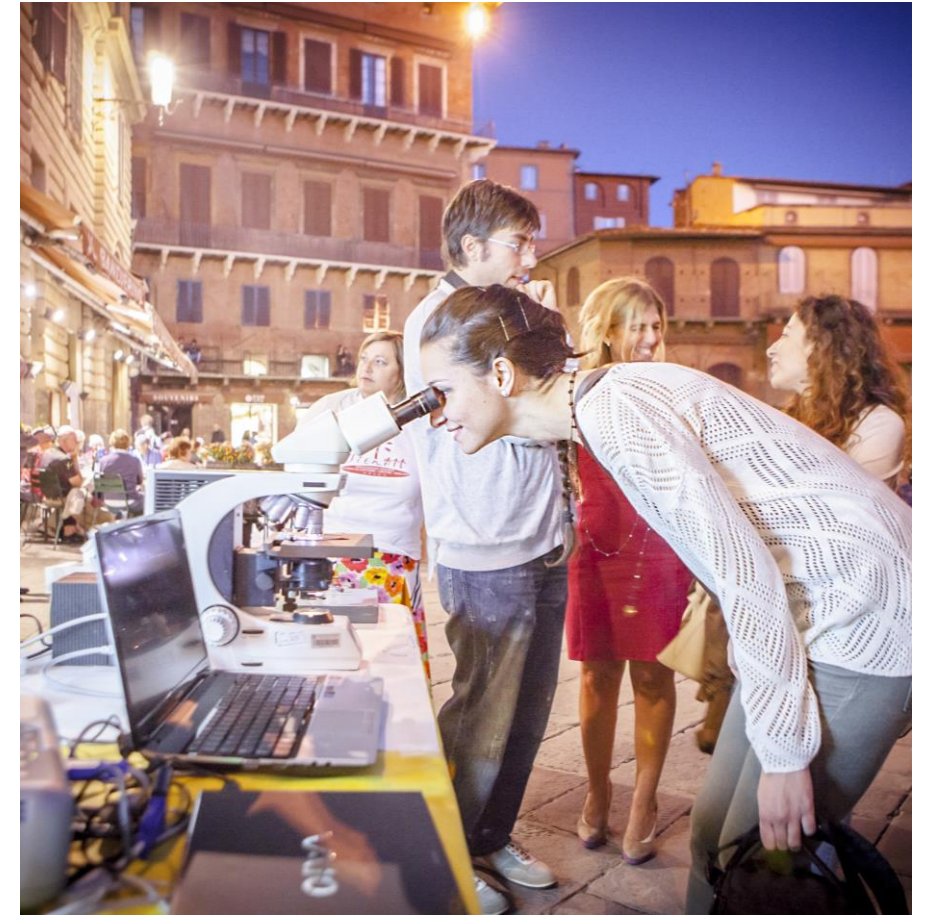
Executive Board Priorities 2023-2024

- **Drive CG's internal development through new initiatives:**
 - **Deepening our connection to CG members and the professional communities we represent:** 2023-2024 will see the launch of two pilot calls for the allocation of targeted funding to the WGs. This new initiative will also fulfil the longstanding objective to enhance inter-WGs cooperation.
 - **Continuing the discussions on the network's future as initiated at the 2023 GA in Cologne:** the aim is to reach a consensus on our collective vision ahead of the celebrations of CG's 40th anniversary in 2025. This year the EB will also develop a roadmap on membership enlargement.



Higher Education Policy

- **CG is a member of:**
 - ✓ DG EAC Higher Education Stakeholder Group
 - ✓ Erasmus+ KA131 Higher Education Mobility Working Group
- **Contribution to the co-development at EU level of:**
 - the Commission's European Higher Education Observatory
 - the Investment Pathway for European Universities
 - the Monitoring Framework for the European Universities Initiative
- **Recent CG events:**
 - ✓ Conference "Higher Education Teaching Excellence and the Future of the European Education Area" (June 2023) [link](#)
 - ✓ Uppsala High Level Policy Seminar "From Learning Spaces to Learning Environments" (November 2022) [link](#)



Research Policy

- **CG is a European Research Area registered stakeholder:**
 - ✓ Committed to the implementation of 8 ERA Actions
 - ✓ Co-sponsoring with Portugal at EU level the ERA action on attractive and sustainable research careers
 - ✓ Co-chairing with France at EU level the Commission's expert group on Empowering HEIs and developing a European Excellence Initiative
- **Contribution to the co-creation of** the European framework for research careers.
- **Founding member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment ([CoARA](#))** and signatory of the Agreement



Civic and Societal Engagement

- **CG launched the Poitiers Declaration (2016):**
 - ✓ Defining a **collaborative framework for CG Universities and the Municipalities** in which they are situated
 - ✓ A set of **10 objectives** and accompanying initiatives to be pursued by signatories ([read more](#))
 - ✓ **33 CG Signatories**
- **MoU with the Erasmus Student Network (2021):**
 - ✓ Incentivize **ESN local sections and CG universities** to develop and organise activities together at the local level
 - ✓ To foster the **active participation of international students in the local communities** (civic engagement, active citizenship)



Forthcoming Events

- **High-Level Seminar on Research Policy: “Achieving Excellence at Universities: What does it mean in times of multiple crises?”**
Biennial Seminar for CG Rectors and Vice-Rectors
13-14 November 2023, Brussels ([link](#))
- **SSH WG Seminar: “New Narratives for a Damaged Planet: Humanities and Social Sciences Perspectives on the Climate Crisis”**
Open call for papers
16-17 November 2023, Jagiellonian University, Kraków ([link](#))
- **Research Support Officers WG Conference: “Responsible Use of AI in Universities”**
23 November 2023, Charles University, Prague ([link](#))
- **Heritage WG International Seminar: “Conservation and preservation of university heritage - University collections, archives, libraries, built and immaterial heritage - against SDGs”**
1 December 2023, University of Granada



Forthcoming Events

- **Equality & Diversity WG meeting: “The violence of gender discrimination in the university from an intersectional perspective: where do we stand?”**
1 December 2023, Brussels
- **Development Cooperation WG Conference: “European Universities’ cooperation with China”**
29 February 2024, University of Würzburg ([link](#))
- **Heritage WG Workshop: “Dealing with complex heritage: revisiting university pasts in contemporary practice”**
18-19 March 2024, Charles University, Prague
- **CG Annual Conference & General Assembly: “Research and Education: Most Impactful Together”**
5-7 June 2024, Universities of Abo Akademi and Turku ([link](#))



Recent Publications

- **“Past, present, and future of the European Research & Innovation Framework programmes 2014-2027” (CG Position Paper), February 2023** - [Link to the paper](#)
- **“Universities’ response to the Covid-19 crisis: What have we learnt so far?” (CG Report), December 2021** - [Link to the report](#)
- **“Why Latin America Matters” (CG Collection of Essays), November 2021** - [Link to the book](#)
- **The Rolling out of the European Universities Initiative after the pilot phase (CG Statement), June 2021** - [Link to the statement](#)
- **Key takeaway messages on post-Brexit UK-EU exchange (CG Policy Paper), April 2021** - [Link to the policy document](#)



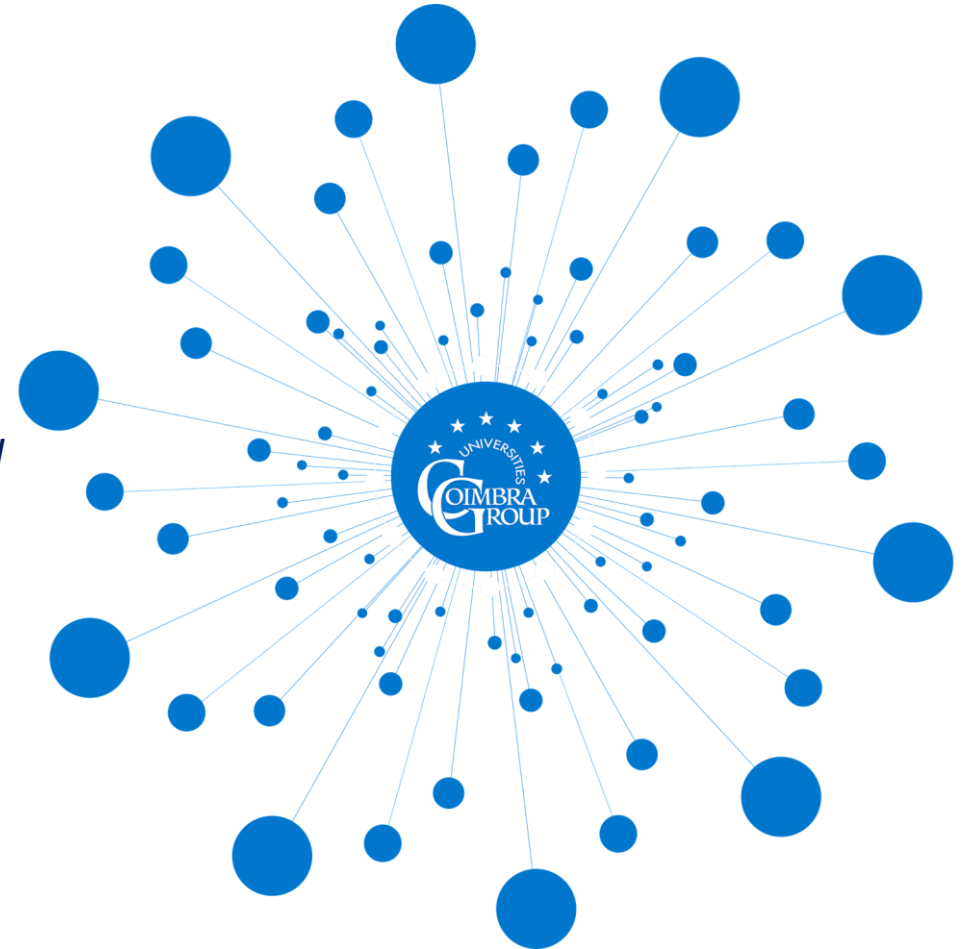
Institutional Partnerships

- **AUGM - Asociación de Universidades Grupo Montevideo** [link](#)
since 2006
- **GCUB - Grupo de Cooperação Internacional de Universidades Brasileiras** [link](#)
since 2012
- **OAS - General Secretariat of the Organization of American States** [link](#)
since 2017
- **UDUAL - Association of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean** [link](#)
since 2017
- **ESN - Erasmus Student Network International** [link](#)
since 2021
- **EDEN DLE - EDEN Digital Learning Europe** [link](#)
in process of institutionalisation



EU Projects

- **EUNIVERSE (2023-2026) - European Universities United in / for Values and Diversity** - *CG is a full partner in this project starting in the autumn 2023*
- **Pilot projects on the joint European degree label (2022-2023):** *CG is associated partner to **ED-AFFICHE** and **ED-Lab***
- **Study in Europe (2021-2023):** *CG Member of the Stakeholders' panel*
<https://education.ec.europa.eu/study-in-europe>
- **European Student Card (2021-2023):** *CG Advisory Board member*
- **E-NOTE - European Network On Teaching Excellence (2020-2023):** *CG was a full partner* <https://www.teachingexcellence.eu>
- **calohEx: Measuring and Comparing Achievements of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Europe - Extension (2020-2023):** *CG was a full partner* <https://www.calohee.eu>



Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

- Since 2015 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 2023, a total of **26 CG universities** took part in this competition by presenting to the CG 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 young researchers and staff from universities in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and the European Neighbourhood.**

2023 Key Figures:

- **74** scholarships awarded (30 LA, 30 Africa, 14 EN)
- **33 ♀** and **41 ♂**
- **879** applicants
- **19** CG host universities

Next Call for applications: January 2024



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Contact us!

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