

COIMBRA GROUP HIGH-LEVEL POLICY WORKSHOP

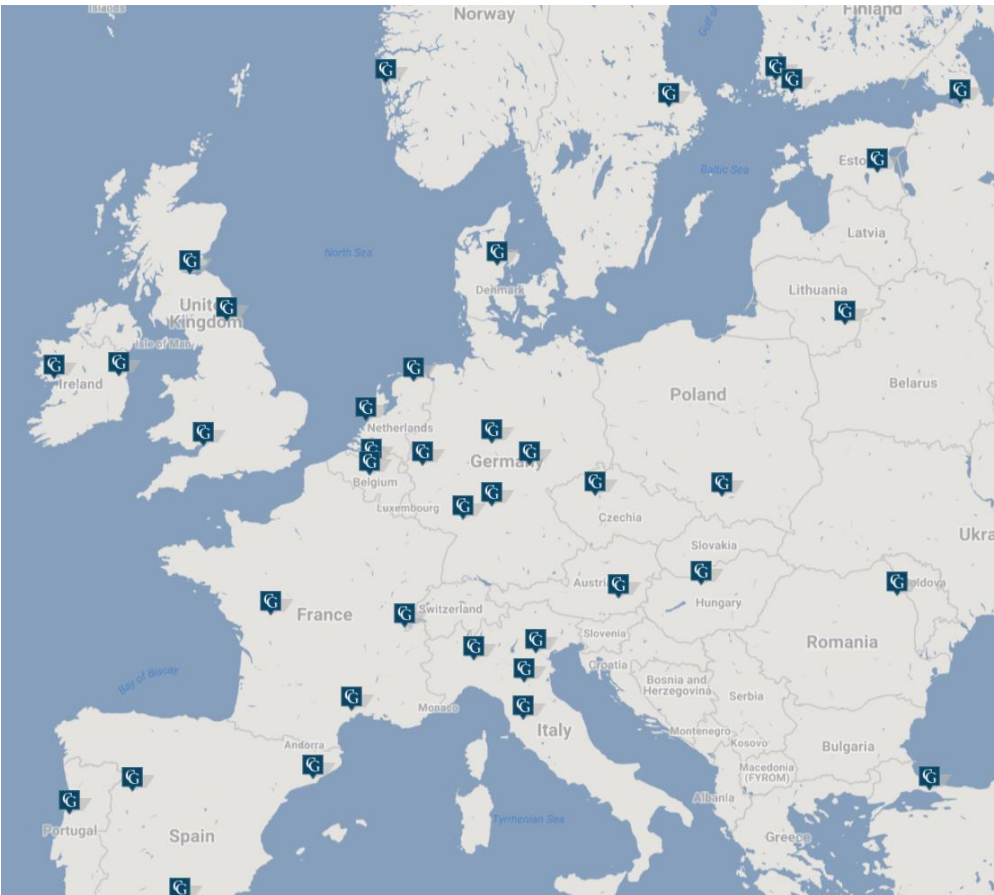
THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES AS DRIVING FORCES FOR CHANGE IN REGIONS AND CITIES

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC TO THE EU
BRUSSELS, 8 OCTOBER 2019**

**PROF. DR. LUDOVIC THILLY
UNIVERSITY OF POITIERS
CHAIR OF THE COIMBRA GROUP EXECUTIVE BOARD**



COIMBRA GROUP: FACTS AND FIGURES



- Founded in **1985**
- **39** Universities from **23** European countries
- **>1,4M** students
- **>226 000** staff (teaching, research, admin.)
- **Students Erasmus+ mobility to/from CG universities: >16%** of all Erasmus+ students in Europe¹
- **Multi-billion €** total annual Research budget

¹ latest available overview: 2014



COIMBRA GROUP: MEMBERS

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)

Padova (IT)

Pavia (IT)*

Poitiers (FR)*

Prague (CZ)

St. Petersburg (RU)

Salamanca (ES)*

Siena (IT)*

Tartu (EE)

Turku (FI)

Uppsala (SE)

Vilnius (LT)

Würzburg (DE)*

Åbo (FI)

Working Groups by pillar of primary interest

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

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

A multi-century-long cooperation:

- Most Coimbra Group Universities have been founded in the **Middle-Ages and existed without interruption** since then;
- Universities have a central role in the **development of Cities** and Cities represent a **fundamental framework and catalyst for the development of Universities**;
- both Cities and Universities have a **vital interest in the growth of knowledge, culture and education**;
- both Cities and Universities **serve Society**

A formal cooperation framework:

- The “**Poitiers Declaration**”: signed by the Coimbra Group Universities and their Municipalities gathered at the conference “The University and the City” in **Poitiers on 9 June 2016**;
- inspired by the “**Pavia protocol**” signed between the National Association of Italian Municipalities and the Conference of Italian University Rectors in **Pavia in September 2015**;
- sets objectives and accompanying initiatives to make a **concrete and visible contribution to the development of the local and regional communities**;

A formal cooperation framework:

- “Poitiers Declaration”= **10 joint actions** in favor of:
 - **Citizens education** through access to knowledge and culture;
 - **Transfer of innovation** from research laboratories to local socio-economic world;
 - **Integration of University campuses** within the Cities, in relation to the urban policy;

First signatories to the Poitiers Declaration (from right to left): Dorothy Kelly, Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board, Mustapha Belgsir, Vice-President of Grand Poitiers, Yves Jean, President of the University of Poitiers



Programme

Session 1

Veronika Hunt Šafránková, Head of the UN Environment Brussels Office
+ Debate with the audience

Coffee/tea break

Productive co-operation between university and city in Turku

Prof. Jukka Kola, Rector, University of Turku

NUI Galway and the city of Galway – a values driven collaboration

Prof. Becky Whay, Vice President International, NUI Galway

Debate with the audience

Programme

Session 1 continued

Leiden: a “city lab” – cooperation between higher education and society

Lara Ummels, Liaison Officer, Leiden Science City

Prevention of criminal behavior in youth - a Leiden case

Hanna Swaab, Professor, Leiden University

Innovative partnerships between municipalities and universities: the case of the Foundation for Urban Innovation in the city of Bologna

Prof. Mirko Degli Esposti, Deputy Rector, University of Bologna

Debate with the audience

Lunch

Programme

Session 2

Universities in Innovation Ecosystems: European Policy Update

Kurt Vandenberghe, Director for Policy Development and Coordination, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

+ Debate with the audience

Poitiers: a university-city symbiosis at the service of citizens and innovation ecosystem

Prof. Yves Jean, Rector, University of Poitiers and ***El Mustapha Belgsir***, Vice-Mayor for Education, Research, Innovation and Digital, City of Poitiers

Cracow – Science – Industry. Links for effective economy

Radosław Rudź, Head of Technology Transfer and Cooperation with Economy Team, Jagiellonian University in Krakow

Debate with the audience

Programme

Session 3

Smart Specialisation and the future Cohesion Policy

Katja Reppel, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

+ Debate with the audience

Friedrich Schiller University and the City of Jena: A partnership between tradition and innovation

Claudia Hillinger, Head of International Office, University of Jena

The University of Groningen and the city of Groningen joint challenges and goals

Maarten Eisema, EU Liaison Officer, University of Groningen

Debate with the audience

Concluding remarks and end of the seminar



THE COIMBRA GROUP: A TRADITION OF INNOVATION

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