



Coimbra Group High-Level Policy Workshop

The role of universities as driving forces for change in regions and cities

Venue: Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU

Brussels, 8 October 2019

9:00 – 17:30

This High-Level Policy Workshop is a direct follow-up to the Poitiers Declaration, launched at the 2016 Coimbra Group annual conference in Poitiers, France, and is organized in parallel to and within the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities, an annual four-day event organised by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), during which cities and regions showcase the importance of the local and regional level for good European collaboration and governance.

With this Workshop, we aim to provide our member universities and their related municipalities with the opportunity to present successful examples of university-city partnerships and to engage in meaningful dialogue with policy makers from the European Institutions and other relevant stakeholders. In the context of a new European Parliament and European Commission and with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) as a top priority in today's political agenda, the timing of this Workshop is crucial, not only to share good practices about local approaches to global societal challenges, but also with regards to funding instruments supporting local and regional development across all EU Member States.

Preliminary Programme

9.00-9.05 Opening address

Jaroslav Zajíček, Deputy Head of the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU

9.05-9.15 The Coimbra Group and the Poitiers Declaration

Prof. Ludovic Thilly, University of Poitiers, Chair of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group

9.15-10.00 Session 1

Veronika Hunt Šafránková, Head of the UN Environment Brussels Office

+ Debate with the audience

10.00-10.30 Coffee/tea break

10.30–12.30 Session 1 continued

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

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

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.15 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

15.15-15.45 Coffee/tea break

15.45–17.30 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

Cooperation between the University and the City of Groningen (title to be confirmed)

Maarten Eisema, EU Liaison Officer, University of Groningen

Debate with the audience

17.30 Concluding remarks and end of the seminar