



A Tradition of Innovation



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU



Åbo Akademi
University



Coimbra Group General Assembly

7 JUNE 2024 TURKU, FINLAND

#coimbragroup2024



GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOCUMENTS

2024

Coimbra Group Universities

Aarhus Universitet (Denmark)
Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)
Universitet i Bergen (Norway)
Università degli Studi di Bologna (Italy)
University of Bristol (United Kingdom)
Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem, ELTE (Budapest, Hungary)
Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal)
Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin (Ireland)
Durham University (United Kingdom)
University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
University of Galway (Ireland)
Université de Genève (Switzerland)
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (Germany)
Universidad de Granada (Spain)
Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz (Austria)
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (The Netherlands)
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (Germany)
Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași (Romania)
İstanbul Üniversitesi (Turkey)
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Germany)
Universität zu Köln (Germany)
Uniwersytet Jagielloński w Krakówie (Poland)
Universiteit Leiden (The Netherlands)
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium)
Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)
Université de Montpellier (France)
Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 (France)
Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy)
Università degli Studi di Pavia (Italy)
Université de Poitiers (France)
Univerzita Karlova (Prague, Czech Republic)
Universidad de Salamanca (Spain)
Università degli Studi di Siena (Italy)
Tartu Ülikool (Estonia)
Turun yliopisto (Turku, Finland)
Uppsala universitet (Sweden)
Universiteit Utrecht (The Netherlands)
Vilniaus universitetas (Lithuania)
Julius-Maximilian-Universität Würzburg (Germany)
Åbo Akademi (Finland)

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Draft Agenda General Assembly 2024

General Assembly 2024 Annual Conference in Turku

Friday 7 June, 9-11 am

Venue: Aurum, Henrikinkatu 2, Turku ([map](#))
Auditorio Argentum

Draft Agenda

1. **Welcome by the Honorary President (5')**
Jukka Kola, Rector, University of Turku, jointly with Mikael Lindfelt, Rector, Åbo Akademi University
2. **Adoption of the agenda**
3. **Annual Report - Main achievements of the year (20')**
4. **Results from the statutory votes on the Accounts 2023, Revised Budget 2024, Draft Budget 2025, and CG Membership Fee for 2025 (5')**
5. **Results from the EB elections (5')**
6. **Nomination on the Rectors' Advisory Group (5')**
7. **Brief report from the Closed Rectors Meeting (5')**
8. **Continuation of the discussion "Looking into the future: Towards Coimbra Group's 40th Anniversary in 2025" (40')**
9. **Presentation of the Coimbra Group's 40th Anniversary Two Major Celebration Events (20')**
 - Claire O'Malley, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global), Durham University
 - Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna
10. **Any other business**
11. **Closing remarks from the Honorary President (5')**
Jukka Kola, Rector, University of Turku, jointly with Mikael Lindfelt, Rector, Åbo Akademi University

Draft Minutes General Assembly 2023



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

University of Cologne

Main Building

Auditorium

2 June 2023, 9 - 11 am

Agenda

1. **Welcome by the Honorary President**
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
3. **Annual Report - Main achievements of the year (30')**
DOC: Annual Report for GA 2023 (to be sent)
4. **Result from the votes on the approval of Accounts 2022, Revised Budget 2023 and Budget 2024, Membership fee for 2024 and Results from EB elections (10')**
5. **Discussion on main theme: "Looking into the future: Towards Coimbra Group's 40th anniversary (2025)" (60')**
 - Pitch statements
 - Open discussion
6. **Presentation of the Coimbra Group Annual Conference at the Universities of Turku and Åbo Akademi in 2024 (10')**
7. **Any other business**
8. **Closure by the Honorary President**

Draft Minutes

CG Universities:

Present:

- University of Barcelona (ES)
- University of Bergen (NO)
- University of Bologna (IT)
- University of Bristol (UK)
- Eötvös Loránd University Budapest (HU)
- University of Coimbra (PT)
- University of Cologne (DE)
- Trinity College Dublin (IE)
- Durham University (UK)
- University of Edinburgh (UK)
- University of Geneva (CH)?
- University of Granada (ES)
- University of Graz (AT)
- University of Groningen (NL)
- University of Iași (RO)?
- Istanbul University (TR)
- Friedrich Schiller University Jena (DE)
- Jagiellonian University in Kraków (PL)
- Leiden University (NL)
- Université catholique de Louvain (BE)
- KU Leuven (BE)
- University of Montpellier (FR)
- Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 (FR)
- University of Padova (IT)
- University of Pavia (IT)
- University of Poitiers (FR)
- Charles University Prague (CZ)
- University of Salamanca (ES)
- University of Siena (IT)
- University of Tartu (EE)?
- University of Turku (FI)
- Uppsala University (SE)
- Utrecht University (NL)

- Vilnius University (LT)
- Universität Würzburg (DE)
- Åbo Akademi University (FI)

Apologies:

- Aarhus University (DK)
- University of Göttingen (DE)
- University of Galway (IE)
- Heidelberg University (DE)

Coimbra Group Executive Board:

Present:

- Ludovic Thilly, EB Chair
- Beatrix Busse
- Claudia Cavadas
- Danny Donoghue
- Dorota Malec
- Coco Norén
- Lenka Rovná
- Luca Verzichelli

Apologies:

- Elmer Sterken
- Efrem Yildiz Sadak

Coimbra Group Office Staff:

Present:

- Emmanuelle Gardan
- Ivonne Mejia Alvarez
- Catarina Moleiro
- Enora Bergot (intern)

Ad 1. Welcome by the Honorary President

The Chair of the Executive Board, Ludovic Thilly, passed on the apologies from CG outgoing Honorary President, Rector Daniela Mapelli (Padua) who was not able to travel to Cologne. He then gave the floor to Rector Axel Freimuth (Cologne), CG incoming Honorary President.

Rector Freimuth expressed his satisfaction with the success of the public conference on academic cooperation between Africa and Europe/and beyond, that was held in the morning. He shared his pleasure to have seen gathered in Cologne so many international partners and so much expertise about higher education and international cooperation. He finally thanked everyone for their participation and collaboration and launched the General Assembly.

Before going through the GA agenda, Ludovic Thilly called the attention of CG members to the fact that several improvements to the structure and format of the Annual Conference including the GA had been implemented this year. He encouraged everyone to provide feedback on the novelties, defining 2023 as a pilot year. One important change was the decision of the Executive Board (EB) to use an electronic system for all statutory votes (including the annual report, financial statement, budget and discharge of the EB, and the EB elections) and organise it the week before, with the objective to leave more time for strategic discussions at the GA meeting.

Ad 2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for the General Assembly was approved.

Ad 3. Annual Report- Main achievements of the year

As part of the innovations for this GA, Emmanuelle Gardan announced that the Office had produced a videoclip summarising CG's 2022-2023 Annual Report key highlights in a visual way. After watching the video, the GA provided enthusiastic feedback on that new communication support.

In continuation, the Director briefly outlined some of CG's main achievements over the past year, in line with the four priorities set up by the EB after consultation of the Rectors' Advisory Group (RAG): research policy; education policy; engagement with society; international cooperation.

This was followed by a session of questions and answers. The only question was about the possibility for the CG to produce similar videos with a clearer thematic focus in the future. This would complement the institutional video just presented with a focus on specific activities, for instance those of the Working Groups (WGs). The EB Chair encouraged CG members to make suggestions in this regard, saying that the EB would consider them carefully.

Ad 4. Results from the votes on the approval of Accounts 2022, Revised Budget 2023 and Budget 2024, Membership fee for 2024 and Results from EB elections

Ludovic Thilly informed that 37 out of 40 CG members had taken part in the electronic vote, underlining the high level of participation. The electronic voting system remained open between 22 and 26 May 2023.

The EB Chair announced that the **2022 GA minutes had been approved by unanimity of the votes cast.**

CG Treasurer, Luca Verzichelli, summarised the financial situation of the association. CG finances are in good shape. He highlighted the positive assessment received from the external auditor on the 2022 accounts. Among the most impactful developments in the past academic year, he mentioned the departure of St Petersburg State University as per the vote of the extraordinary GA in April 2023. He reassured CG members that this reduction of CG income does not put at risk CG finances in the short term, thanks to the exceptional membership increase decided by the GA in 2021 to make CG finances more sustainable and support the development of new services to the members. He also mentioned that the EB has initiated a discussion on a possible limited membership expansion in the coming years. The other major development was the resignation of two staff members at the CG Office in March 2023 following their decision to pursue another career path.

The results of the vote showed that **the GA ratified, by unanimity of the votes cast, the 2022 accounts, the revised 2023 budget, and the draft 2024 budget**, previously approved by the Executive Board after consultation with the AFC and controlled by the external auditor. In conclusion, **the GA released the Executive Board members from all financial liabilities with respect to the financial management of the Coimbra Group asbl/vzw during the fiscal year 2022.**

The GA also approved, by majority of the votes cast, CG membership fee for 2024 of € 15,971.

Online elections had been organised to fill three vacant positions on the Executive Board. Ludovic Thilly invited CG members to join him and the EB in warmly thanking outgoing EB members Claudia Cavadas (also EB Vice-Chair), Elmer Sterken and Luca Verzichelli (also CG Treasurer since 2019) for their unvaluable contribution to the Coimbra Group.

All three candidates in the elections for the EB were elected: Piia Björn (University of Turku); Antonella Forlino (University of Pavia); João Ramalho-Santos (University of Coimbra). The EB will hold a closed meeting after the GA to vote for the next Vice-Chair and Treasurer. The new composition of the EB will be communicated to CG members.

Finally, the EB Chair informed of **three new nominations on the RAG** for a first mandate (2023-2025): Milena Králíčková, Rector of Charles University, Annetje Ottow, President of the Executive Board of Leiden University, and Joan Guàrdia Olmos, Rector of the University of Barcelona. These nominations had been endorsed by CG Rectors at the Closed Rectors Meeting held the previous day.

Ad 5. Discussion on main theme “Looking into the future: Towards Coimbra Group’s 40th Anniversary (2025)”

The discussion kicked off with three pitch statements delivered by Margareth Hagen (Bergen), member of the RAG, Beatrix Busse (Cologne), member of the EB and Adriana Zait (Iași), Chair of the Doctoral Studies Working Group. There were all very inspiring for the internal reflection that will pave the way for the future of the CG network.

The EB Chair moderated the vivid open discussion that followed. Several CG members and WGs Chairs took the floor to make suggestions on possible future priority topics and areas of cooperation (among others, academic freedom, societal engagement, etc.) as well as more structural developments for the association (e.g. strengthening student participation in the meetings and activities, innovating in the nature of the links already established with the other university networks, becoming more vocal on breaches of human rights globally, etc).

The EB Chair thanked everyone for their excellent inputs which made this session a very fruitful one, and he encouraged CG members to continue nurturing this reflection process in the next months. The EB will carefully consider all proposals and make suggestions for 2025.

Ad 6. Presentation of the Coimbra Group Annual Conference at the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University in 2024

Mikael Lindfelt, Rector of the University of Åbo Akademi, representing also the Rector of the University of Turku who was unable to travel to Cologne, formally invited CG members to the next CG Annual Conference and GA that will be co-hosted by the two institutions from 4 to 7 June 2024 in Turku, Finland. He announced the theme that will be about “Research and Education - Most Impactful Together”. An invitation video was also shown to GA members, followed by a festive moment.

Ad 7. Any other business

The EB Chair deeply thanked his fellow EB members, the CG Office staff, and all the colleagues who are contributing to the Rectors’ Advisory Group and the Working Groups on a voluntary basis. He also warmly thanked the Rector and the organisational team of the University of Cologne for their hospitality and a most successful and profitable Annual Conference.

Ad 8. Closure by the Honorary President

The new Honorary President, Rector Axel Freimuth, closed the meeting by positively commenting on the new format of the GA and particularly the room for discussion that was provided, which he had enjoyed very much. He thanked the EB Chair and his fellow Rectors for their commitment to the Coimbra Group and commended the work of his team noting that they have been organising two big international conferences in the same week. He then wished a pleasant trip back home to all CG members, announcing also that he would be retiring from academic in the next weeks.

2023-2024 Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

Foreword

Dear Members of the Coimbra Group Universities,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Ahead of the Coimbra Group General Assembly on 6 June 2024, we are delighted to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the major developments and achievements that have shaped our network over the past twelve months.

2023-2024 has been **another purposeful year for the Coimbra Group (CG)**. We strived to keep true to the association's motto, *A tradition of innovation*. This year again we showed leadership in driving cultural transformations happening in our sector, to empower CG members with the latest knowledge and a voice to influence the future of higher education.

We would like to acknowledge for instance the forward steps that we were able to take together by engaging CG in the conversation on Open Science. We are now supporting ambitious initiatives in this area, that we believe will leverage present and future opportunities for CG and its members.

On the bottom-upside, CG Working Groups have brought us cutting-edge discussions about for instance paradigms shifts in how long-established universities approach cooperation with partners from the African continent, cooperation with China, or the impact of AI on their practices.

The environment is evolving fast, and for our universities this means both significant challenges but also new opportunities.

A major concern, academic freedom is increasingly under threat – in Europe and everywhere in the world. This has been a recurrent theme in the editorials proposed by CG Rectors for our monthly Newsletter throughout the year. Furthermore, the increased

pressure on public funding for Education, Research and Innovation is affecting us all. Unfortunately, this is the context under which European policymakers are currently preparing the next EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (2028-2034). More than ever our sector must be united to resist these developments.

On the positive side, 2023-2024 saw the return of the United Kingdom (UK) in Horizon Europe, as an associated country. This was a great relief for the whole CG community, not least for our three UK members. We are still advocating for a similar evolution for Switzerland. We also welcomed the momentum created by the European Commission's 2024 Higher Education package and the 2023 Council Recommendation on a European Framework for Research Careers- both of which we hope will translate into national policy reforms that will enhance transnational cooperation and strengthen our institutions and their capacity to address the challenges we face.

We look forward to further discussing and defining all these crucial topics with CG members in the weeks and months to come, and first in Finland, 4-7 June, where colleagues from Åbo Akademi and the University of Turku are looking forward to receiving us for the 2024 CG Annual Conference & General Assembly.

The context of the European Parliament elections and the subsequent formation in the autumn of a new European Commission, at a key moment for the preparation of the next EU funding programmes, and against the backdrop of a gloomy economic outlook, will make it even more crucial for our individual universities to come together and stand united. We are ready to make the most of our network to amplify your voice and make an impact.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the 24 Working Groups Chairs and Vice-Chairs and all active WGs members- in total almost 500 people! as well as to the 40 Coimbra Group Representatives and the 7 members of the Rectors' Advisory Group who have contributed to make this year's achievements possible.

We hope you will enjoy your reading. Members' feedback and input is very welcome always. Please feel free to reach out with any comments or questions.

We already look ahead to what promises to be a very special time for the Coimbra Group as the network will turn forty in 2025! To celebrate this milestone, we have two major anniversary events lined up for the forthcoming academic year, a Climate Symposium in Durham, linked to the next Annual Conference & General Assembly in Bologna.

Yours Sincerely,

The members of Executive Board,
Prof. Ludovic Thilly, Executive Board Chair
Prof. Beatrix Busse, Executive Board Vice-Chair
Prof. Daniel Donoghue, Treasurer
Prof. Piia Björn
Prof. Antonella Forlino
Prof. Dorota Malec
Prof. Coco Norén
Prof. Lenka Rovná
Prof. João Ramalho-Santos
Prof. Efrem Yildiz Sadak

The Coimbra Group officers,
Ms Emmanuelle Gardan, Office Director
Mr Manuel Daporta Cendán, Policy and Advocacy Officer
Ms Ivonne Mejia Alvarez, Office and Events Manager
Ms Catarina Moleiro, Policy & Communications Officer

I. INTRODUCTION

This annual report highlights the most significant collaboration and advocacy activities carried out by the Coimbra Group to implement the strategic priorities selected by the Executive Board (EB) and the Rectors' Advisory Group (RAG) for the academic year 2023-2024. The report also includes the financial statements for the fiscal year 2023.

These three priorities, as detailed in the September 2023 [Newsletter editorial](#) co-authored by EB members, are as follows:

- Play the role of a scientific scene-setter of themes and articulate a solid vision in Societal Engagement and Open Science;
- Help shaping and pioneering EU policies that are relevant for its members;
- Drive CG's internal development through new initiatives.

Here are some highlights of past months' efforts.

1.1. Open Science has come to the forefront of EB strategic initiatives in 2023-2024. From articulating a CG vision ([EB-RAG joint statement](#)) to joining front runner global coalitions ([More Than Our Rank](#), [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#)), we have charted a course that aligns with CG mission statement and with our ambition for the future of the network.

Furthermore, 2023 also saw CG questioning the definitions of university excellence(s) in the era of multiple crises we are facing. The two-day Brussels [High-Level Seminar on Research Policy](#) (13-14 November 2023) featured panels and discussions with CG Rectors and Vice-Rectors for Research as well as several prominent speakers, among them European Research Council President Maria Leptin, European Commission's DG RTD Deputy Director-General Signe Ratso, DG RTD Head of Unit Manuel Aleixo, or Member of the European Parliament Maria da Graça Carvalho to name just a few of them.

1.2. On Societal Engagement, CG's structured partnership with the [Erasmus Student Network](#) (ESN) has only grown stronger as we continued to develop mutually beneficial collaborations since the signature of an MoU in 2021. The most emblematic being CG's active engagement

in shaping the programme of the Erasmus Generation Meeting (EGM) that took place in Seville 4-7 April 2024: five thematic sessions were proposed by CG or involving CG. EGM is the biggest student-led conference in Europe (over 1,300 attendees this year) and this third edition's theme was "Removing barriers for active and equal participation".

CG has also started a new Erasmus+ project in October 2023 (EUNIVERSE) which aims to improve students' mobility and integration by implementing European values and civic engagement initiatives into learning activities that boost student skills and intercultural understanding. We also continued to promote the Poitiers Declaration on City-University cooperation.

2. The heart of our advocacy lies in the positive impact we strive to have on EU policies and programmes that are relevant for CG members. Looking back on the year, among the most significant achievements were:

- our long-standing efforts towards the United Kingdom (UK) joining again Horizon Europe programme (December 2023);
- our contribution to the newly adopted European framework for research careers (December 2023);
- our participation in several European Research Area (ERA) Forum meetings and discussions (2023-2024) including on the structure and content of the next ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027;
- our exchanges with members of the Commission's expert group on Horizon Europe interim evaluation (2024);
- our inputs to the new European Higher Education Package including a blueprint on the European Joint Degree, a proposal for a Council recommendation to improve quality assurance processes and automatic recognition of qualifications in higher education and a proposal for a Council recommendation to make academic careers more attractive and sustainable (March 2024);
- and our bilateral meeting with the new Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture (March 2024).

3. Regarding **CG internal developments and new initiatives**, the EB and RAG have adopted a roadmap for the membership strategy, which sets the goal to integrate up to three new CG members by 2026. The next step will be to identify potential target institutions considering the comprehensive analysis undertaken by the EB in the past months. CG has always been receiving expressions of interest from European higher education institutions and some strategic choices must now be made.

Of course, we all regret the decision from the presidential board of the University of Göttingen to withdraw from our association. Upon mutual agreement, the cooperation will officially come to an end on 31 December 2024. We will cherish the many good projects as well memories and friendships that have been made since 1985.

On another dimension, the decision from the GA 2022 to earmark €25,000 from the budget allocated to strategic initiatives, to co-fund specific activities run by the Working Groups and enhance inter-WGs cooperation, has entered implementation. Under this new WG Funding Scheme, the CG Office launched a pilot call in the autumn 2023, and a second call at the beginning of 2024. Several proposals were submitted each time, and this rather new process is constantly improving.

Finally, the EB approved in December 2023 the proposal from the members of the Development Cooperation Working Group to continue under a new name in better resonance with our times: 'Global Partnerships' (GP). They also proposed a redirected approach and focus. The activities of the WG now align with global and European policies dealing with actual challenges in global partnerships, especially the UN SDGs and their implementation in education, research, and innovation.

I. Policy Work

I.1 POLICY PRIORITIES - OPEN SCIENCE

- *Coimbra Group joined the conversation on Open Science*

Given the fast developments on this topic and their implications for CG members, EB and RAG members produced on 14 February 2024 a [joint statement](#) highlighting CG's willingness to join the conversation on Open Science - that includes open research information, open-data rankings and related issues.

EB and RAG members held a series of focused discussions on these questions over the year 2023-2024, with the input of experts from the wider higher education community such as Ludo Waltman, scientific director at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University.

In the future we want to facilitate for CG members a deeper understanding of the potential opportunities and challenges at stake and promote a constructive dialogue in the full respect of each individual institution's strategy. We also want to build on the diversity of perspectives and on the broad expertise available in our network to play a leading role in these cultural transformations.

This strong commitment, which follows several years of CG's active implication in the successful adoption of a [European Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#), was very well noticed and positively welcomed by most actors in the sector.

We look forward to very interesting exchanges with CG Rectors during the Closed Rectors' Meeting on 6 June in Turku, where we will reflect together on how to translate sometimes general commitments in these areas into effective transformational changes in our respective institutions.

- *Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information*

CG was among the initial signatories of the [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#) released on 16 April 2024. We were consulted on the draft text of the Declaration in the end of 2023, and we managed to raise the awareness of CG members

on this important and promising initiative. The Declaration has already been endorsed by some of the most prestigious higher education institutions, but also governments, funders, and other R&I actors. CG is the first, and so far, the only, university network to have signed the Declaration.

CG was featured in the [Declaration launch webinar](#) on 23 April 2024, where CGO Director Emmanuelle Gardan explained the reasons of our commitment. We will attend on 23-24 September 2024 in Paris the conference for signatories and supporters where a Coalition for Open Research Information will be set to enable organizations to share experiences, align actions, and coordinate discussions with service providers.

- ***More Than Our Rank***

CG has long been discussing the multiple issues surrounding global university rankings and their significant increase since the foundation of our network in 1985. CG's support for '[More Than Our Rank](#)' marks a new milestone in our journey towards advancing a more complex, contextualised, and nuanced understanding of university excellence that better fits our times.

The Initiative aligns seamlessly with CG core values and our holistic approach to universities' missions, as well as with our strong belief that any assessment/ranking should place equal importance on all disciplines, including the Social Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts. By endorsing More Than Our Rank, we aim to foster open and honest discussions about issues that may challenge traditional practices and models in place at our member universities. We would like to enable CG members to share experiences in a safe and supportive environment while keeping abreast with new developments and alternative pathways. CG will also contribute to advocacy efforts in view to influence policies at various levels.

- ***Other policy issues related to Open Science***

CG attended the R&I stakeholders' online meeting organised by the Commission's DG RTD on the future of the Open Research Europe platform (ORE) on 14 June 2023.

I.2 POLICY PRIORITIES- RESEARCH POLICY

- *High-Level Seminar on Research Policy*

Ten years after the first ever CG High-Level Seminar on Research Policy ('In the light of Horizon 2020') took place in San Servolo (April 2013), the sixth edition was held at the University Foundation in Brussels on 13-14 November 2023.

The EB invited CG Rectors and Vice-Rectors for Research and for Internationalisation to explore the following question: “**Achieving Excellence at Universities: What does it mean in times of multiple crises?**”. If there are no easy answers to this question, there are, however, many different paths, directions, ways to move on and explore. The seminar was aimed exactly at that: Examining the systemic components of excellence, getting the conversation going across the spectrum of Universities’ missions, looking at human resources-related policies, as well as questioning together common standards and prevailing thinking. The programme counted with some prominent speakers from inside and outside our network, who challenged us and nurtured our debate. The feedback received from attendees was very positive. Read more in the *Policy focus #1*.

- *EU R&I Framework Programmes (FPs)*

-The outstanding results achieved by CG universities under the 8th and in the ongoing 9th FPs position our network among the largest players of these programmes. We continued to disseminate the recommendations from **CG’s 2022 position paper** on the [‘Past, present and future of the European Research & Innovation Framework programmes 2014-2027’](#) at many occasions.

- Discussing **CG’s key messages for FP10** was at the core of the agenda of the two EB-RAG meetings held in Brussels in November 2023 and in January 2024. We also invited the representatives of several other leading associations (EUA, CESAER, EU-LIFE, EASSH, The Guild, LERU, Science Europe, YERUN, etc.) to participate in the last part of the January’s meeting. We asked them to share their interest for **teaming up with CG and engage in a collective advocacy campaign to defend an ambitious budget for FP10**. The initiative was received very positively, showing lots of alignment and an excellent level of discussion.

- In February 2024, CG and the rest of associations decided to rally an emerging campaign pursuing similar objectives, **#Research Matters**, initially promoted by the University of Bergen and the European Association of Communication Professionals in Higher Education (EUPRIO). Since then, CG has been attending weekly coordination meetings at various levels.

We involved in the definition of the key messages, priority targets and overall strategy, and co-sponsored the campaign. It was launched on 13 May 2024 with a dedicated [website](#) and social media accounts, and soon an open letter will be released calling policymakers to strengthen research and innovation in Europe.

- Furthermore, CG held **meetings with the European Commission's expert group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe**:

- On 23 January 2024, EB and RAG members invited the chair of the [expert group](#) for an exchange of views in Brussels. Due to health issues, the meeting took place instead with Conny Aerts, also member of the expert group and professor at CG member KU Leuven. It was a very constructive and fruitful meeting.
- On 12 April in Brussels, CG Director outlined the views of our association on Horizon Europe and FP10 in a meeting with another member of the expert group, Annelien Bredenoord (Rector of the Erasmus University Rotterdam).

- In March 2024, CG responded to the **consultation on the future orientations of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**, providing guidance to the Commission's DG EAC on the overall assessment of the actions, as well as on the future ambition, vision and context for MSCA. The paper was prepared by the Doctoral Studies WG.

Policy focus #1: CG High Level Seminar on Research Policy - “Achieving Excellence at Universities: What does it mean in times of multiple crises?”, Brussels, 13-14 November 2023

The seminar offered inspiring and thought-provoking discussions. We are grateful to the many attending CG Rectors and Vice-Rectors for their constructive participation. Our internal discussions were greatly enhanced by the perspectives brought by external keynote and guest speakers, such as ERC President Maria Leptin (link to her keynote, “[A critical and prospective stance on excellence and open science](#)”), DG RTD Deputy Director-General Signe Ratso, MEP Maria da Graça Carvalho, or the president of the ERC Grantees Association, Axel Cleeremans - to name only a few.

The common starting point was the observation that in a world faced with multiple simultaneous and interconnected crises and transitions, Universities cannot pretend as if nothing has happened and continue to function as before.

During the [seminar](#), we conceptualized excellence as being valued by peers, innovative, open, unexpected, risky; different from elitism, strongly connected to impact, including social and societal impact, strongly connected to frontier research and the role of it; “no big is better”. We also conceptualized excellence as quality in relation to a broadly accepted reference framework. There is a clear willingness among our members to engage on all these complex topics via the CG.



Maria Leptin, ERC President



Maria da Graça Carvalho Leptin, MEP

- ***European Research Area (ERA)***

CG continued to be very active in the European Research Area (ERA). On one side, CG regularly attended meetings and exchanged views with the EUA, The Guild, CESAER, YERUN, ECIU and the other associations formally registered as ERA stakeholders. These interactions took place under the [informal coordination mechanism](#) set up in 2022.

On the other side, in its capacity as **co-Chair of ERA Policy Action 4 on Research Careers, and of ERA Policy Action 13 on enhancing Universities' Excellence**, CG was invited by the European Commission to participate in several meetings of the ERA Forum in the autumn and winter 2023, in Brussels, in Bonn and online. For several months, the dominating topic was the structure and content of the next ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027. CG has been working closely with co-chairs Portugal (ERA Action 4) and France (ERA Action 13) on these two policy actions' remaining needs, renewed objectives, and outcomes for 2025-2027, consulting also the experts appointed by the Member States and stakeholder organisations committed to these two actions.

CG, France, and the European Commission jointly organised two meetings of the ERA Action 13 subgroup, on 16 October 2023 in Paris, and on 5 February 2024 online.

CG, Portugal, and the European Commission have jointly organised two ERA Action 4 ad-hoc workshops. The [first one](#) took place in Brussels on 22 November 2023 in Brussels, back-to-back with the first ever [European Conference on Research Careers](#) also attended by CG. The second workshop is due to take place online on 29 May 2024.

In December 2023, CG welcomed the adoption of the **Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe** as an important step forward to advance the objectives of ERA Action 4. But success in this area will only be measured by how effectively the ambition of the Council Recommendation is translated into national reforms and changes in EU Member States. This was the main message in the [joint statement](#) that we co-signed with AURORA, EUA, The Guild and YERUN.

In 2023-2024, CG also actively participated in:

- three meetings of the of **ERA Action 5 subgroup on "Gender equality and inclusiveness"** (October 2023, February 2024 and May 2024);

- two workshops of **ERA Action 11** sub-action on “**ERAFuture4Work R&I actions, gaps and challenges**”: one on the Digital transition and working life (June 2023), the other one on the Twin transitions and vulnerable groups (October 2023);
 - one workshop under **ERA Action 3 on Research Assessment** (June 2023); the meeting focused on national activities supporting the reform of research assessment: lessons learnt and next steps;
 - one [workshop](#) under **ERA Action 9 on International Cooperation** (January 2024); the programme, co-designed by CG, addressed the issue of building equitable research and innovation partnerships with low- and middle-income countries.
- ***Reform of Research Assessment***

CG is a founding and active member of the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](#). We attended the CoARA online General Assembly held on 15 December 2023 where we cast our vote in the election of five candidates on the Steering Board including one Vice-Chair. CG plans to attend the next online General Assembly on 12 June 2024.

CG participates in two CoARA Working Groups:

- The [WG on Multilingualism and language biases in research assessment](#) coordinated by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. The WG had its kick-off meeting on 3 November 2023 and has had regular monthly meetings since then. CG co-drafted the WG action plan which was released in February 2024. In this WG, CG co-leads the task force on Policy advice and Implementation, jointly with the French National Research Funding Agency (ANR) and the association ‘Initiative for Science in Europe’ (ISE). We hosted on 11 April 2024, at CG Brussels premises, the first meeting of the task force in the presence of several European partners.
- Led by the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH), the creation of the [WG on Evaluating SSH research globally](#) was approved by the CoARA Steering Board in the autumn 2023. The WG is still in preparation phase and will begin activities in the first half of 2024. CG contributed to the EASSH workshop “Cross-disciplinary research evaluation in the 21st century: what next?” (February 2024, Brussels) which outputs will inform the WG agenda.

- *UK Association to Horizon Europe*

CG had [welcomed](#) each of the political steps that eventually led to the decision of the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Participation in Union programmes, mid-November 2023, to approve the association of the UK to Horizon Europe. This decision was a relief for all CG members. Since the Brexit vote, CG had been constant in arguing that an association agreement was the best route to maintaining and developing academic cooperation between the UK and the rest of the continent.

- *AI in Science*

New topics such as AI in Science, the impact of AI on the work of research support officers, and the responsible use of AI in universities, started being discussed within the CG notably in the Research Support Officers WG. They co-organised with Charles University in November 2023 a very successful educational workshop and international conference on the topic.

In March 2024, CG was invited to the presentation of the draft scientific opinion of the Group of Chief Scientific to the European Commission, "[Successful and timely uptake of artificial intelligence in science in the EU](#)", before its formal release in April.

- *Other R&I policy issues*

- On 27 June 2023, following regular meetings led by The Guild with also other R&I organisations, CG signed a joint statement in "[reaction to the EU Innovation Council Board's statement on intellectual property](#)" recalling among other issues the principle of institutional autonomy of research organisations.

- On 20-21 March 2024, EB Chair Ludovic Thilly represented CG at the **EU R&I Days in Brussels** attending a broad range of plenary and thematic sessions.

- In the spring 2024, CG collected input from its members on the options put forward by the Commission's [White Paper](#) for enhancing support for research and development involving technologies with dual-use potential and more generally on dual-use research. These questions will be addressed at the Closed Rectors Meeting in Turku on 6 June.

I.3 POLICY PRIORITIES – HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY

CG continued to maintain and further develop excellent relationships with the European Commission's DG EAC. Among other meetings organised with that institution in the last year, a bilateral meeting was held with Ms Pia Ahrenkilde-Hansen, recently appointed Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture. See *Policy focus #2*.

- ***Coimbra Group's recommendations for the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 interim evaluation***

- CG has been one of the pioneering actors in the creation of the Erasmus programme in 1987 and more than three decades later, its members are still among the most active institutions of the programme. On 12 December 2023 we published a set of [recommendations for the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 interim evaluation](#).

This **position paper** represents the results of a collective effort chaired by the Academic Exchange and Mobility Working Group (AEM WG), with the input from the Employability WG, the EB and the CG Office. The paper undertakes a thorough analysis of the accomplishments, obstacles, and prospects inherent in the Erasmus+ Programme in the area of Higher Education. It first gives an overall analysis of the Erasmus+ programme and then focuses specifically on a number of specific concrete issues, identifying the relevant achievements and challenges, and giving recommendations for each area.

- In addition, AEM WG Chair Chantal Riccardi participated in the meeting of the **Commission's 'Expert group on the implementation of Erasmus+ in Higher Education'** (12 October 2023 in Brussels), where stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the future of higher education mobility in the Erasmus+ programme with a focus on the following areas: accreditation system, eligibility rules, funding system, and digitalisation/future of the European Student Card Initiative.

- We also contributed, in February 2024, to a bilateral interview and a stakeholder workshop on the assessment of the interim results of the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027 in the framework of a study conducted by a contractor on behalf of the Commission.

- *European Universities Initiative (EUI)*

- 35 out of the 40 CG universities are currently a member of an Alliance. They are spread across 8 Alliances, **6 of them in Associated Partnership with the CG.**

Coimbra Group participation in the European Universities initiative:

8 of the existing 50 Alliances include CG members:

- **4EU+**: Geneva (CG), Heidelberg (DE), Prague (CZ)
- **Una Europa***: Bologna (IT), Edinburgh (UK), Kraków (PL), Leiden (NL), Leuven (BE)
- **ARQUS***: Granada (ES), Graz (AT), Padova (IT), Vilnius (LT)
- **CHARM-EU***: Åbo Akademi (FI), Barcelona (ES), Bergen (NO) Budapest (HU), Dublin (IE), Montpellier (FR), Utrecht (NL), Würzburg (DE)
- **EC2U***: Coimbra (PT), Iași (RO), Jena (DE), Pavia (IT), Poitiers (FR), Salamanca (ES), Turku (FI)
- **Circle U.***: Aarhus (DK), Louvain (BE)
- **EUniWell***: Cologne (DE)
- **ENLIGHT**: Galway (IE), Göttingen (DE), Groningen (NL), Tartu (EE), Uppsala (SE)

**: Alliances with CG as Associated Partner*

- CG was closely involved in the preparation of the programme of the [II Forum of Universities for the Future of Europe](#) organised by the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council on 14-15 September 2023 in Barcelona. During the event, the EB Chair moderated the session on the ‘monitoring framework for the EUI’, while CG Office Director moderated the session on ‘the external dimension of European partnerships: collaboration with Higher Education Institutions in third countries’ in continuity with the theme of CG Open Session on the European University Alliances in Cologne in June 2023.

- On 29-30 April 2024 CG was invited to take part in the [high-level conference convened in Brussels by all ten Belgian universities on the occasion of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU](#), to reflect on the European University Alliances as ‘drivers of change

and innovation in higher education'. This event was organized back-to-back with the final conference "[A blueprint for a European degree](#)", featuring the results of all 10 Erasmus+ pilot projects on a possible legal status for alliances of HEIs and on the European degree (label), two of them with the associated partnership of CG (ED-AFFICHE and EDLab).

- On 7-10 December 2023, CG took part in the **first Conference of student representatives of the European University Alliances** co-organized by the European Students' Union (ESU) and the EC2U Alliance in the city of Coimbra. Almost 80 representatives from 38 Alliances discussed the issues of student representation, social dimension, mobility, financing, and quality in the European Universities initiative.

CG, represented by Policy and Communications Officer Catarina Moleiro, participated in the final panel discussion, reflecting on the main take-away messages, and tackling several crucial topics for the development of the Alliances and the future of the European Education Area.

European Strategy for Universities (ES4U)

- In October 2023, CG collected input from its members on the **"feasibility of a European quality assurance and recognition system"**, in order to contribute to the Commission's online stakeholder workshop on the study on that topic (7 November 2023).

- CG attended the meeting of **DG EAC's Higher Education Stakeholder Group** held in Brussels on 8 March 2024. This meeting focused on the European Higher Education Package:

- Blueprint on the European Joint Degree,
- Proposal for a Council recommendation to improve quality assurance processes and automatic recognition of qualifications in higher education,
- Proposal for a Council recommendation to make academic careers more attractive and sustainable.

- CG later welcomed the [European Higher Education Package](#) that was formally adopted by the Commission on 27 March 2024. It will now be critical for any tangible progress, that EU Member States seize the momentum and take concrete steps to address the

different barriers and obstacles identified through the Erasmus+ pilot projects in 2023-2024.

- *Coimbra Group High-Level Seminar on Education Policy*

- The EB is grateful to Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași for their invitation to host the sixth CG High-Level Seminar on Education Policy. The event will take place on **21-22 November 2024**. As in the past, the EB has been working on the programme with the support of the Education Innovation WG.

This sixth edition will focus on the **opportunities and challenges posed by AI on teaching, learning and assessment**. The OECD Higher Education team already confirmed their participation among the keynotes. CG Rectors and Vice-Rectors for Education and Internationalisation will soon receive a save-the-date with a draft programme.

- *Other Education policy issues*

- CG participated in September 2023 in Brussels in an **expert workshop on the impact of Erasmus Mundus** organised by the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) with national and European experts. This workshop was part of the preparation of a 'study on the 20 years of Erasmus Mundus' commissioned by DG EAC for the 20 years of the programme. The 20th anniversary will be celebrated at the dedicated **European Conference "Beyond Borders and Boundaries"**, on 28-29 May 2024 in Brussels, where several CG Universities feature among the panellists as well as CGO Director.

Policy focus #2: Meeting with DG EAC Director-General Pia Ahrenkilde-Hansen

On 21 March 2024, the EB Chair and the Vice-Chair, Ludovic Thilly and Beatrix Busse, and CGO Director, Emmanuelle Gardan, had an excellent introductory meeting with the new Commission's Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture Pia Ahrenkilde-Hansen.

The meeting was also attended by Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot, Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+, and Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of the Unit in charge of European higher Education policies and programme.

Director-General Ahrenkilde-Hansen recognised the **key supportive role played by the Coimbra Group and its members in the Erasmus+ programme as well as in the European Universities Initiative, and more broadly, in the development and consolidation of a European Education Area.**

Several topics were discussed:

- the ways forward after the adoption of a new Commission's Higher Education Package and how to ensure its proper implementation at national level;
- the synergies and continuum between education and research;
- the societal role of universities; and
- the changing nature of the teaching profession.



Left to right: V. Debiais-Sainton, B. Busse, L. Thilly, P. Ahrenkilde-Hansen, S. Eriksson Waterschoot, E. Gardan

I.4 POLICY PRIORITIES- ENGAGEMENT WITH SOCIETY

- *Academic Freedom*

Academic freedom and institutional autonomy are universal, fundamental values that ought to be upheld everywhere in the world. All CG members are signatories of the Magna Charta Universitatum. In 2023-2024, CG increasingly discussed infringements to academic freedom, and engaged with initiatives to better protect it.

- On 19 July 2023 CG very much welcomed the news of the **release of CG Universities' alumnus Patrick George Zaki, a human rights researcher** and Erasmus Mundus scholarship holder of the EM Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies (GEMMA) coordinated by the University of Granada. Zaki had been arrested in Egypt a few days after finishing his exams at the University of Bologna.

- On 28 July 2023, CG together with other major research organisations globally, endorsed a **joint [statement](#) raising concerns about threats to academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Israel.**

- On 29 November 2023 in Brussels, CG contributed to the **European Parliament high-level conference on Academic Freedom, 'The state of a fundamental value for Europe'** hosted by STOA Chair MEP Christian Ehler.

- On 24 April 2024, after several months of monitoring of the situation in Nicaragua and contacts with local actors, within the Latin America Working Group, CG released a **[statement](#) expressing its utmost concern for the many attacks on academic freedom at higher education institutions in Nicaragua**, and asking the government of Nicaragua and all governments in the world to do everything to protect, safeguard, or immediately restore academic freedom and the autonomy of higher education in their own countries. This statement received a large echo in the media from the region.

- *Civic Engagement*

- The **MoU signed with ESN** in June 2021 has seen an increasing number of joint activities and mutual exchange of expertise happening between the two associations in 2023-2024 with a clear focus on civic engagement. The first physical meeting of CG Universities contact persons for this MoU and ESN local sections took place on 1 June 2023 in

connexion with the CG Annual Conference in Cologne. The second one will take place on 6 June in Turku with the participation of a greater number of ESN representatives sponsored by their home universities. In between, a very well attended and very interactive online meeting took place in the autumn 2023.

CG also enhanced its presence at the **ESN Erasmus Generation Meeting** in Sevilla, on 4-7 April 2024 with representatives from the CG Office and from the Academic Exchange & Mobility and Equality & Diversity Working Groups. Read more in *Policy focus #3*.

Furthermore, CGO Policy and Communications Officer Catarina Moleiro was a speaker at the **ESN Conference "Mobilising Europe, Engaging Together"** organised on 12 February 2024 in Ghent. The conference brought together representatives of universities, youth associations, students, members of European institutions and civil society, to celebrate and promote active citizenship and discuss the future of Europe and mobility.

- ***European Universities United for Values & Diversity***

The Erasmus+ funded [EUNIVERSE](#) (European Universities United for Values & Diversity) project, which formally started in October 2023 and kicked off in January 2024 in Poitiers, will help CG and members to collect data, create new knowledge and develop new tools to improve students' mobility and integration by implementing European values and civic engagement initiatives into learning activities, hence boosting student skills and intercultural understanding.

- ***Green Erasmus***

Following the most popular and successful pilot CG-EURAIL Green Erasmus pilot programme in 2021-2022, CG has continued to **collaborate with the EURAIL** company in 2023-2024. The cooperation has now expanded to also include ESN. A new offer is currently being developed for the benefit of CG Universities that should be launched before the summer 2024.

Furthermore, CG was invited by Campus France to present to the French higher education institutions the range of activities and best practice our network and its members carry out to enhance sustainability in international cooperation and international student and staff mobility (Brussels, December 2023).

Policy focus #3: CG at Erasmus Generation Meeting Sevilla 2024

The ESN Erasmus Generation Meeting (EGM) is the biggest student-led conference in Europe, where the Erasmus Generation meets to learn and discuss the future of mobility. Over 1,300 delegates attended the third edition in Sevilla, on 4-7 April 2024.

The theme was “**Removing barriers for active and equal participation**”, with two main angles: Inclusive international opportunities for all students and young people, and Participation in democratic life in light of the European Parliament elections 2024.

CG increased its participation, with 9 delegates this year. Both the Equality & Diversity and the Academic Exchange & Mobility WGs submitted sessions proposals which got selected in the final programme (on ‘intersectionality and keeping campus safe’, ‘green Erasmus’ and ‘the future of internationalisation’, etc.). Their delegates and the CG Office also contributed to other thematic sessions as panellists.

Furthermore, Policy & Communications Officer Catarina Moleiro was invited to serve as the jury panellist for the ESN Education Annual Award which distinguishes impactful ESN local sections’ activities, events, projects and campaigns from. The winning project was ‘International Student Perspective UK’, a comprehensive research report evaluating experiences and perceptions of studying in the UK, an initiative from ESN UK.



From bottom to top: C. Moleiro, C. Gamberi, I. Bayerova, K. Belykova, M. Cobelli, C. Riccardi, L. Loftus, V. Costa

I.5 POLICY PRIORITIES- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- *Africa*

- Building on the momentum created by CG Annual Conference in Cologne “[Africa Meets Europe](#)”, CG significantly amplified in 2023-2024 its voice on Europe- Africa academic cooperation, as well as on advancing excellent research in Africa.

- On 1 June 2023, CG and 25 R&I organisations co-signed a [call for action](#) **urging the African Union and the European Union, and their Member States, to take a novel funding approach** and leverage the potential of research and innovation to accelerate the sustainable development of the two continents.

- Shortly after that, CG took part in the [launch event](#) of the **Charter Framework for Transformative Research Collaborations between Africa and the rest of the world** (Windhoek, Namibia, 4-7 June 2023). The [charter](#) was co-developed by the Perivoli Africa Research Centre of the University of Bristol, a CG member, together with the Association of African Universities and other partners. It aims to establish a new era of equitable South-North and South-South collaboration based on African intellectual thought and to foster African perspectives on research, development, and funding.

The Chair of CG Development Cooperation WG (now called the Global Partnerships WG), Julien Bobineau, spoke in a panel on the importance of this new charter framework, and he also signed the charter on behalf of CG. The event was attended by over 800 participants from Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America. The charter has been largely discussed among members of the Global Partnerships WG these past months. A joint event on the charter in Brussels next autumn is currently under planning between CG and the University of Bristol.

- CG participates in the two Working Groups supporting the **Youth Mobility for Africa Flagship Initiative** European Commission Directorate-General on International Partnerships (DG INTPA). This initiative is part of the [Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package](#) that aims to respond to commitments made at the 6th European Union-African Union Summit in February 2022.

- *Latin America and the Caribbean*

- CG's expertise and legitimacy on issues related to enhancing Europe- Latin America and Caribbean academic cooperation received increased recognition from policymakers in the past year. Representatives from CG Latin America WG were invited to participate in the [5th LAC-EU Permanent Academic Forum](#) (FAP-ALC-UE) hosted by the University of Alcalá de Henares on 6-8 August 2023 (UAH). CG's presentation notably focused on "Development: the role of education in present and future EU-LAC relations".

- The Latin America Working Group (LA WG) then played an active role in the event organised in July 2023 in Brussels by the European Commission with the support of a Steering Group of Civil Society Organisations (CSO), under the title "[EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum: Partners in Change](#)" in connection with EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of States in Brussels. The Chair of CG LA WG was invited to be a panellist on the sessions "Partnerships and Multi-Stakeholders' Engagements: Democracy, Knowledge, Gender Equality and Just Transitions", and the "EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Forum: Partners in Change."

- *China*

CG Global Partnerships WG partnered with the China Competence Centre of the University of Würzburg to organise an international conference "**European Universities' cooperation with China: opportunities and risks for academic exchange**" (Würzburg, 29 February-1 March 2024). The event offered CG members significant opportunities to learn about the current state of Europe-China relations, share practices, exchange experiences with related national and EU policies, and discuss [ways ahead](#) that allow universities to continue cooperation while raising awareness and mitigating risks.

The event was articulated into four panels on developments of EU-China relations; S&T education and science diplomacy; national strategies to deal with Chinese HEIs; and CG Universities' approaches to cooperating with China. The conference was very well attended with almost 80 participants, and the feedback received was very positive. The

main outcomes will now be compiled into a policy brief to nurture possible future CG actions on these issues.

- *Multilateral Dialogue on principles and values for international research*

- Considering its broad expertise, CG was invited by the European Commission's DG RTD to co-design the international [workshop on encouraging equitable research and innovation partnerships with low- and middle-income countries](#), which took place on.

- Later on, CG represented by its Honorary President and Office Director attended the [international ministerial conference on the principles and values for international R&I cooperation](#) organised by the Belgian presidency of the EU Council on 15-16 February 2024, which culminated with the adoption of the [Brussels Statement](#).

- *Other International Cooperation issues*

- On 15 December 2023, the EB Chair contributed to the Commission's DG RTD Strategic Stakeholder Meeting on Enhancing Research Security where he highlighted the heterogeneity of the sector *vis-à-vis* the autonomy towards security frameworks and called policymakers and relevant actors to develop training, tools and support for researchers.

- In December 2023 CG published a [report on CG Universities' cooperation with the Global South](#). The document compiles the results from an online survey of all CG Universities, conducted in cooperation between the Latin America and Global Partnerships WGs. The primary objective of this survey was to outline the existing collaborative efforts and the main areas of expertise and excellence of CG Universities, particularly in the context of their cooperative engagements with the Global South. It is aimed as a starting point for identifying common areas of interest among different CG universities. The results were discussed in a joint meeting of the two WGs in November 2023 before being released publicly.

- CG also attended in Madrid on 18-19 December 2023 the [first EU Science Diplomacy Conference](#) hosted by the Spanish Presidency of the EU Council.

II. Cooperation Work

II.1 WORKING GROUPS

The 12 thematic Working Groups are **the engines of CG intra-network cooperation across all fields of the Knowledge Square**: Education, Research, Innovation and Societal engagement. They are key in CG's capacity for developing bottom-up and members-led activities in an agile way while benefitting the European (Higher) Education and Research Areas. Places of vibrant interaction, they provide an excellent opportunity for CG members to discuss with, and learn from colleagues, as well as to develop expertise and best practice in specific areas.

22 WGs meetings were held throughout the academic year 2023-2024, one third of them physical meetings. In addition, CG WGs organised **5 conferences, seminars or workshops**:

- *'New Narratives for a Damaged Planet: Humanities and Social Sciences Perspectives on the Climate Crisis'*, SSH WG Seminar (November 2023, Jagiellonian University, Krakow)
- *'Artificial Intelligence in Research Support'*, RSO WG Workshop (November 2023, Charles University)
- *'Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Universities'*, RSO WG Conference (November 2023, Charles University)
- *'Conservation and preservation of university heritage - University collections, archives, libraries, built and immaterial heritage - against Sustainable Development Goals'* (November 2023, University of Granada)
- *'European Universities' cooperation with China'* GP WG Conference (February 2024, University of Würzburg)

CG Office provides ad hoc support to the WGs, including on communication, arranges their Brussels meetings and manages WGs membership lists.

Annex 3 provides a short summary of recent highlights of each of the WGs over the past year, as well as their priorities and upcoming activities for 2024-2026.

Examples of CG Office support to WG activities in 2023-2024

- disseminating the **position paper “Recommendations for the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 Interim Evaluation”** produced by the Academic Exchange and Mobility WG (February 2024);
- circulating to all CG members, with a lot of success, a **call for speakers for the Conference “European Universities’ cooperation with China”** co-organised by the Global Partnerships WG and the University of Würzburg (call circulated in the autumn 2023);
- creating **trophies for the laureates of the Three-Minute Thesis Competition** overseen by the Doctoral Studies Working Group (spring 2024);
- arranging bilateral meetings with **relevant European Commission’s representatives, or their participation in WGs meetings and events**, to further connect the cooperation work with the policy work (for almost all WGs).

II.3 EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Participation in EU projects involves CG staff and, when necessary, delegates from member universities, usually through the WGs. Project participation is decided by the EB, after discussion with CG staff to assess the internal capacity.

- *Ongoing project with CG as partner*

CG is presently involved as partner in one European project funded by the Erasmus+ programme:

- **EUNIVERSE - European Universities United for “Values and Diversity” (2023-2026)**- Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnerships in Higher Education ([link](#)) coordinated by the **University of Poitiers**, a CG member. The project builds on the successful developments of the [Unisafe](#) project implemented between 2019 and 2022 by an all-CG member consortium, including the Coimbra Group, on the safety and security of students and staff in mobility. CG is represented in the EUNIVERSE project by Catarina Moleiro, Policy and Communications Officer.

In addition to Poitiers, EUNIVERSE brings together 5 other CG members (Granada, Cologne, Jagiellonian, Pavia and Utrecht) as full partners, as well as CG and ESN, and 2 other universities as associated partners (CG member Edinburgh, and Lviv in Ukraine). CG took part in the kick-off meeting in Poitiers at the end of January 2024. We also collaborated in designing survey questionnaires for students and staff on the engagement of European universities in international students' integration.

- *Projects with CG as associated partner*

- **European Universities Alliances:**

CG is currently associated to six European Universities Alliances with CG members: Arqus, CHARM-EU, Circle U., EC2U, EUniWell and Una Europa. See also in Section I.3 page 26.

This status translates into diverse modes of collaborations, such as the membership in Alliances' specific bodies (e.g. EC2U Plenary Council), the participation in the pilot projects on the European Joint Degree label [EDLab](#) and [ED-AFFICHE](#) (2023-2024) or invitations to CG take part as speakers in events from these Alliances and vice-versa.

- **INCAS - INstruments to Connect Academia to Society.**

CG was involved in the preparation of the INCAS project proposal submitted in February 2024 to the Erasmus+ call for proposals 'KA2 Capacity Building in Higher Education'. The project is coordinated by the University of Pavia, in collaboration with higher education institutions in Europe (all CG members), Argentina and Paraguay. If selected, the project aims to improve the capability of LA and EU universities to adapt their academic activities to global and local societal change, strengthening connections between academia, government, and communities, through improved skill sets, technology transfer and research impact. The selection results will be known in June 2024.

- *Projects that terminated in 2023-2024 with CG as partner*

- **E-NOTE- European Network On Teaching Excellence (2020-2023)**- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership ([link](#)) coordinated by the **University of Leiden**. CG organised the project's

Final Conference in Brussels on 21 June 2023 under the title “Higher Education Teaching Excellence and the Future of the European Education Area”. We included a policy roundtable ‘Towards a European Approach to Teaching Excellence in a Global Context connecting the project’s outcomes with the Commission’s DG EAC preparatory work towards a proposal for a Council Recommendation on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education. Panellists on this session included high level speakers from the European Commission (DG EAC), the European Parliament (MEP Victor Negrescu) and the European Council (Education Attache at the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU), as well as the President of the European Student Union Horia-Şerban Oniţa.

After the submission of the final report, the project’s results received top assessment scores from the Erasmus+ funding agency (91/100). The European Commission later highlighted the project as a ‘good practice’ on the [European Erasmus+ projects results platform](#). We encourage CG members to check the project’s intellectual outputs which are all available on the project’s website.

- **CALOHEx: Measuring and Comparing Achievements of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Europe- Extension (2020-2023)**- Erasmus+ Forward-Looking Cooperation ([link](#)) coordinated by the **University of Groningen**. An academic paper reflecting the outcomes of the three ‘CALOHEE’ projects (all three have involved CG participation) was [published](#) in open access in April 2024: “Towards a robust approach for evidencing quality in higher education learning: the new CALOHEE model”.

II.4 COIMBRA GROUP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

The selection process for the 2023 call for applications was completed early July 2023. It resulted in **74 scholarships being awarded for the academic year 2023-2024**. Final figures of the 2023 edition were made public and may be found [here](#).

In the 2024 edition, twenty-two CG Universities have offered scholarships for the academic year 2024-2025. We are delighted to see the number of grants offered by CG

members continuously increasing, reaching almost **90 scholarships** for this call. The CG Office launched the call for applications in early February 2024 with a deadline for applications on 5 April 2024.

Overall, **707 candidates applied to the programme** which supports young researchers (and professors) from countries in the European Neighbourhood (EN), Latin America (LA) and Sub-Saharan Africa, who wish to pursue their research in Europe for a duration of one to three months.

Preliminary figures for the 2024 edition, as well as the trends of each of the three geographical scholarship schemes over the past decade are available in **Annex 7**.

In 2024 the CG Office innovated by convening an online meeting (March 2024) to **facilitate the exchange of experiences amongst the persons handling this scholarship programme** in CG institutions. This was very well attended. A follow-up meeting is scheduled on 19 June 2024 to further discuss issues such as the payment of grants, accommodation, information dissemination, visa and reports.

We are extremely thankful to all CG members involved for their continuous generous contribution and kind support to the development of this programme, which participates to increasing the profile of both the network and its members worldwide.

II.5 THREE-MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION

CG Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition continues to enjoy very broad support from our members. **Twenty-seven CG Universities participated in this eighth edition**. For the second consecutive year, the CG Office organised an online informative meeting for participating institutions in the presence of the members of the technical committee to explain the competition criteria and answer questions (20 November 2023). After the eligibility check, the video entries of PhD students from twenty-five CG Universities competed in the first virtual round (April 2024). All 40 CG members could vote for their preferred top-three contestants using the 3MT judging criteria. The three shortlisted finalists will take to the stage at the live final organised on 6 June 2024 in Turku (also live streamed).

In light of the experience gained over the past years, the Doctoral Studies Working Group (DS WG) has decided to slightly adjust the amount of the prize awards in this 2024 edition. Based on the decision of the jury, the winner of the final will be awarded a first prize (2,000 EUR), and there will also be two runner-up prizes of 1,500 EUR each. For the first time, finalists will also receive an engraved wooden trophy.

Last year's final laureate, Ida Cecilie Jensen (Aarhus University), recently shared with us her feedback: "Winning the CG's 3MT competition gave me the confidence to trust in my communication skills, and that it is okay to explore the boundaries of what a conference talk can be and how science can be presented. Winning the 3MT has also given me the opportunity to bring my research to new audiences, as I have been invited to present my research at a great deal of different events inside and outside the university- not on my research, but on how to communicate science! It also gave me the opportunity to take my research to far corners of the world. I am extremely grateful for all the great opportunities my participation in the 3MT has brought with it, and I am very proud to have reached a point where I can now share my learnings and best tips on communicating science with other researchers".

II.6 ARENBERG-COIMBRA GROUP PRIZE FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS

No call for nominations was launched in 2023-2024. The Arenberg-CG Prize for Erasmus students was put on hold due to the staff situation in the CG Office. Discussions with the sponsor, the Duke of Arenberg, who wishes to revise the conditions of the Prize in the best interest of both organisations, will resume in the next months.

II.7 ROLE OF THE COIMBRA GROUP OFFICE

The Office provides specific support to CG governing bodies and WGs, including for the organisation of events and meetings. It also acts as a **central coordinating body for all initiatives at CG level**, including High-Level Policy Seminars, Scholarship Programmes, Three-Minute Thesis competition, Poitiers Declaration, MoU with ESN, etc.

In its role as a **liaison between Brussels and member universities**, the CGO is proactive in transmitting information on EU policy developments to CG membership and maintaining contacts with a variety of stakeholders and policymakers. The staff attends relevant meetings and events and develops relationships with competent staff from the EU institutions to keep abreast of upcoming initiatives at EU level and beyond.

In 2023-2024 the strong **engagement with the other European associations** continued in the context of the coordinated representation of the university sector in the governance of the European Research Area, as well under the impulsion of the EB to convince other umbrella organisations to join efforts in the advocacy for the next EU R&I framework programme.

III. Structural and organisational matters

Over the years the network has developed an organisational structure and internal processes that foster collaboration between CG members, enable collaborative policy work, and facilitate internal communication and coordination.

The Executive Board is convinced that the **interplay of bottom-up and top-down interactions** and the engagement with members at many levels of university activity and management are among CG strengths and marks of identity.

The following is a summary of the current structures, their composition, and main activities over the past year.

III.1 EXECUTIVE BOARD: MEMBERS, ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Members, activities and responsibilities*

- **Ludovic Thilly (Poitiers)**: Chair of the Executive Board (second mandate)
- **Beatrix Busse (Cologne)**: Vice-Chair of the Executive Board (since June 2023)
- **Danny Donoghue (Durham)**: Treasurer (since June 2023)

EB members' responsibilities as contact persons for CG Universities were reshuffled after the EB elections at the GA 2023. Current responsibilities are outlined below:

- **Ludovic Thilly** (Chair): Genève, Louvain, Montpellier, Montpellier 3, Poitiers
- **Beatrix Busse** (Vice-Chair): Göttingen, Heidelberg, Jena, Köln, Würzburg
- **Piia Björn**: Åbo, Bergen, Tartu, Turku
- **Daniel Donoghue**: Bristol, Durham, Edinburgh, Galway
- **Antonella Forlino**: Bologna, Padova, Pavia, Siena
- **Dorota Malec**: Dublin, Kraków, Leiden
- **Coco Norén**: Aarhus, Groningen, Uppsala, Utrecht
- **João Ramalho-Santos**: Coimbra, Graz, Iași, Vilnius
- **Lenka Rovná**: Budapest, Leuven, Prague
- **Efrem Yildiz Sadak**: Barcelona, Granada, Istanbul, Salamanca

The Executive Board has met regularly since the last GA:

- **2023:** 30 June, 30 August (in person, Turku), 6 October, 13 December.
- **2024:** 23 January (in Brussels), 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 4 June (in Turku).

At this year's GA, **member universities will be asked to elect new members on the Executive Board as two seats will become vacant:** Lenka Rovná (Charles University) and Ludovic Thilly (University of Poitiers) are both ending their second term (2020-2024).

We warmly thank Lenka Rovná and Ludovic Thilly for their outstanding contribution and dedication to further advancing CG as one of the most significant European university networks. More specifically, the EB would like to extend its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Ludovic Thilly for his tireless leadership and extraordinary service as EB Chair over the last seven years.

Two candidates are presented for the two vacancies. See **Part V.2** of this report and **Annex 2** for the supporting documents.

III.2 RECTORS' ADVISORY GROUP

High-level advice on and input to CG activities and policies are the remit of the Rectors' Advisory Group (RAG), consisting of the immediate past, present, and future CG Honorary Presidents in addition to four appointed Rectors.

Before the 2024 GA, the composition of the Rectors' Advisory Group is:

Ex officio members:

- Honorary President (2023-2024): **Joybrato Mukherjee**, University of Cologne.
- Future Honorary President (2024-2025): **Jukka Kola**, University of Turku.
- Future Honorary President (2025-2026): **Giovanni Molari**, University of Bologna, who started his term in January 2024.

Appointed members (first term):

- **Joan Guàrdia Olmos**, University of Barcelona (2023-2025)
- **Margareth Hagen**, University of Bergen (2022-2024)
- **Milena Králíčková**, Charles University (2023-2025)
- **Annetje Ottow**, Leiden University (2023-2025)

Over the past year the EB and RAG members have met twice, on 13 November 2023 and 24 January 2024, both times in Brussels. Among the range of topics discussed were:

- **Open Science** and specifically open-source rankings and open research information; these discussions have culminated in the adoption of a [joint statement](#) released on 14 February and several concrete initiatives.
- The **next EU R&I Framework Programme** (FP10); in January 2024, the EB and RAG members met with Prof Conny Aerts (KU Leuven), in her capacity as member of the Commission's expert group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe. They also met with the representatives of other European R&I associations to exchange on potential joint advocacy efforts.
- **CG's membership strategy**; the roadmap and analysis prepared by the EB were discussed in depth with the RAG.

III.3 WORKING GROUPS

Current elected WGs Chairs are from 17 CG Universities. **Three Working Groups will have elections at the 2024 Annual Conference in Turku:** the Employability, Heritage, and Research Support Officers WGs.

The EB is thankful to all WG members for their contribution to CG vitality, and to the twenty-four WG Chairs and Vice-Chairs for their leadership and strong commitment. They are instrumental in our collective accomplishments.

The EB oversees and coordinates the work of the WGs based on their terms of reference, work plans and progress reports to the General Assembly. In the past year EB and WGs Chairs and Vice-Chairs met in Brussels on 24 January 2024. The preparation of the 2024

Annual Conference and GA was on the agenda, as well as the evaluation of the pilot funding scheme for WGs activities, the cross-fertilisation of best practices between WGs, and CG’s new visual identity. The meeting included a timeslot for bilateral discussions between WGs Chairs and Vice-Chairs and the EB contact person for their WG.

WGs Chairs have been asked by the EB to reflect on the current structure and thematic focus of their WGs as potential changes may need to be implemented in 2025, ten years after the last reform, considering the tremendous changes in the higher education sector over the past decade.

Table 1 provides an overview of the responsibilities associated with the twelve WGs. the WGs updated work plan summaries for the period 2024-2026 can be found in **Annex 3**.

Table 1: Summary of CG Working Groups’ information

Working Group	Chair	Vice Chair	EB / CGO contact person	Primary policy focus
Academic Exchange and Mobility (AEM)	Chantal Riccardi, Pavia	Daniela Sauge, Geneva	Piia Björn / Catarina Moleiro	Education
Doctoral Studies (DS)	Adriana Zait, Iași	Elise Pinta, Turku	Coco Norén / Manuel Daporta Cendán	Education
Education Innovation (EDU)	Nicoleta Popa, Iași	François Lecellier, Poitiers	Beatrix Busse / <i>CGO vacant position</i>	Education
Equality and Diversity (ED)	Annalisa Oboe, Padua	Věra Sokolová, Prague	Beatrix Busse / Emmanuelle Gardan	Outreach
Employability (EMP)	Orla Bannon, Dublin	Annette Retsch, Würzburg	Piia Björn / Catarina Moleiro	Education
Global Partnerships (GP)	Sarah-Marleen Dannenberg, Cologne <i>(since Sept. 2023)</i>	Nils Gunnar Songstad, Bergen <i>(since Sept. 2023)</i>	Efrem Yildiz Sadak / Catarina Moleiro	Outreach

Working Group	Chair	Vice Chair	EB / CGO contact person	Primary policy focus
Heritage (HER)	Bernadette Biedermann, Graz	Jeremy Upton, Edinburgh	João Ramalho-Santos / Emmanuelle Gardan	Outreach
Latin America (LA)	Mara Constantinescu, Leiden	Soledad Garcia Ferrari, Edinburgh	Danny Donoghue / Catarina Moleiro	Outreach
Life Sciences (LS)	Alois Palmethofer, Würzburg	Pierre-Antoine Bonnet, Montpellier	Antonella Forlino / <i>CGO vacant position</i>	Research
Research Support Officers (RSO)	Matthias Röder, Cologne	Adéla Jiroudková, Prague <i>(since Sept. 2023)</i>	Ludovic Thilly / Manuel Daporta Cendán	Research
Social Sciences & Humanities (SSH)	Raúl Sánchez Prieto, Salamanca	Natasza Styczyńska, Kraków	Lenka Rovná / Manuel Daporta Cendán	Research
Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	Francesco de Anna, Würzburg	Giulia Marina Licini, Padua	Dorota Malec / <i>CGO vacant position</i>	Research

III.4 ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Last year saw some changes in the composition of Administrative and Financial Committee (AFC). In March 2024, **two new members were appointed** by the EB. This followed an open call for expression of interest issued in January 2024 and circulated to all CG Rectors.

The new AFC members, each serving a four-year term (2024-2028), are:

- Ms Ana Coimbra, currently Head of the Audit and Management Risk Prevention Office at the University of Coimbra.
- Prof Geraint Howells, Executive Dean for Business, Public Policy, and Law at the University of Galway.

The EB expresses its sincere appreciation to Markus Gelhoet (University of Göttingen) who has served as AFC Chair with great professionalism and agility since 2017. The EB has appointed **Patricia Pardon (KU Leuven) as the new AFC Chair** starting in 2024 in a smooth transition with the past chair.

The other two AFC members are Jessica Levyne (UCLouvain) and CG Treasurer Danny Donoghue (Durham University). The EB is thankful to all AFC members for their dedication and hard work.

The minutes and recommendations of the AFC meeting that was held on 4 April 2024 can be found in **Annex 1.6**.

II.5 COMPOSITION OF THE COIMBRA GROUP OFFICE

Permanent staff members are:

- Catarina Moleiro, Policy and Communications Officer
- Emmanuelle Gardan, Office Director
- Ivonne Mejia Alvarez, Events and Office Manager

CG Office staff has worked under great pressure in the past academic year as the two Policy and Advocacy Officers positions have remained vacant. The EB would like to praise the staff consistent outstanding performance, service and dedication despite the severely constrained work conditions and heavy workload.

After a long transition period, **Manuel Daporta Cendán started as Research Policy and Advocacy Officer on May 1, 2024**. The recruitment of the Education Policy and Advocacy Officer is ongoing and should be finalised shortly, which means that the CG Office staff will return to the equivalent of five full-time employees.

An **interim employee** was hired between February and April 2024 to support the team with administrative work. The CG Office also regularly welcomes **interns** on the team. In the months of May and June 2024, Manon Colombo, a student enrolled in a Master's degree at the University of Poitiers, has been discovering and supporting CG policy work.

III.6 SITES FOR CG 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS AND FUTURE ANNUAL CONFERENCES

2025 will be a milestone year celebrating the **40th anniversary of the Coimbra Group**. The EB decided to mark this occasion by organising two closely interconnected events on the invitation of member Universities:

- A **Climate Symposium hosted by Durham University on 24-26 March 2025** around the role of Universities as agents for transformative change for climate, nature, planetary health and society; inter alia, the delivery of the European Green Deal and a global transition to just and sustainable futures. The Symposium will focus on four key roles that Universities have as change agents: innovators, educators, partners and investors. Rectors have been invited to express interest in chairing one of the thematic sessions and/or contributing to a thematic session by way of presentation (deadline 21 June).
- The **2025 Annual Conference & General Assembly of the Coimbra Group hosted by the University of Bologna on 10-13 June 2025**.

Planning two flagship events on the calendar of this special year will bring major opportunities for CG to raise its profile towards top decision makers by addressing issues of great significance for its members and the higher education sector in general.

Both Universities have started working together to best articulate both programmes. The formal invitations and presentations will be made at the 2024 General Assembly co-hosted by Åbo Akademi University and the University of Turku on 7 June 2024.

Furthermore, the Executive Board has also accepted invitations:

- from the University of Granada to host the **2026 Annual Conference**.
- from the University of Würzburg to host the **2027 Annual Conference**.

The Executive Board is very thankful to all afore-mentioned member universities for their generous invitations.

IV. Communication Strategy

The communication strategy aims to increase the awareness of the CG's mission and activities and maintain the positive reputation of the association and its members within the wider higher education community. It contributes to strengthening engagement with members, other stakeholders, external partners and policymakers, thus enhancing the impact of CG activities, projects and publications. It is also essential to supporting CG advocacy efforts and elevating the voice and interests of members.

The Office oversees the implementation of the communication strategy, which includes the management of several channels of communication, drafting webnews and press releases and cultivating relationships with relevant media and journalists.

The main developments and achievements are presented below:

- **Modernization of CG visual identity:** in the current multi-channel communication context, the Office worked with the Belgian creative agency, Josworld, on strengthening the readability of the CG logo and its capacity to remain effective and recognizable across a variety of mediums, contexts, and sizes. The agency also created: new variations of the CG logo; several new identity elements to personalize CG printed, video, web and social media publications; a revamped set of letterhead templates; and a set of revised [brand guidelines](#) which are publicly accessible on the CG website.
- **Creation of an institutional video and WGs posters:** the 2023 Annual Conference and GA featured new resources including informative posters on the main highlights of each Working Group, and an institutional video to present the key messages of the Annual Report 2022-2023 in a visual way but with the objective that its content would remain meaningful over time. The video was warmly received by GA members. It has since then been used to introduce CG to external partners and policymakers, but also been sent systematically to newly appointed CG representatives and WGs members. It is publicly accessible on CG website and YouTube channel. This video was produced with the support of Josworld as well.

IV.I 2023-2024 COMMUNICATIONS AT A GLANCE

- WEBSITE

32K

active visitors on the [website](#) during last year

- SOCIAL MEDIA

4,040

followers on Twitter (+ 14%)

with over 242,000 impressions in total (662 per day)

326 Tweets posted from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024

27 per month in average

2,166

followers on LinkedIn (9% of them located in Brussels)

with nearly 12,000 impressions

289

subscribers to our YouTube channel

- NEWSLETTER

2,292

subscribers to our monthly Newsletter

with 34% average open rate

14

CG Rectors signed an editorial (see table 2 for detailed list)

- CONTENT PRODUCED

12

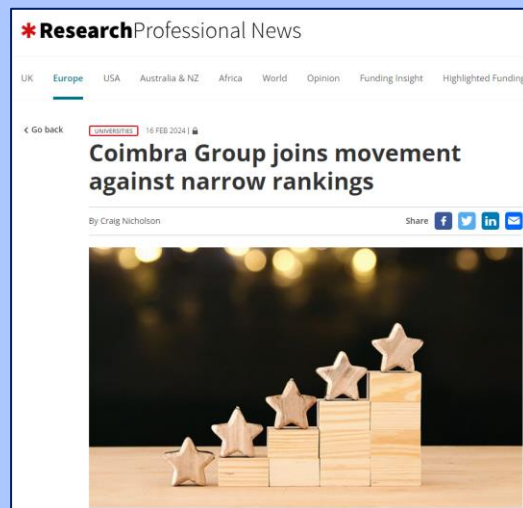
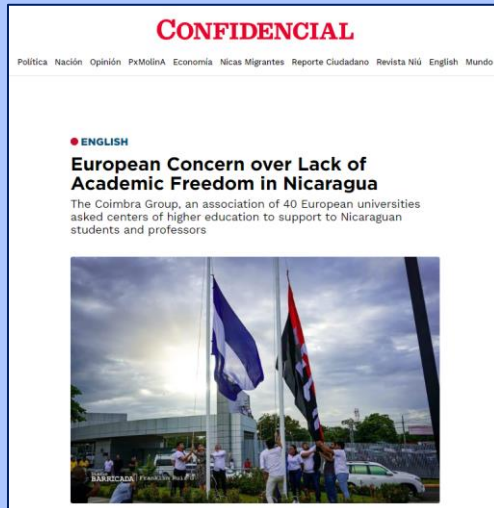
Working Groups Posters

20

press statements

IV.II COIMBRA GROUP IN THE MEDIA

Selection of press articles



- European Concern over Lack of Academic Freedom in Nicaragua
Confidencial, 26 April 2024, [link](#)
- Coimbra Group backs More Than Our Rank initiative
ResearchProfessional News, 22 April 2024, [link](#)
- Funders and universities pledge to use open research information
ResearchProfessional News, 16 April 2024, [link](#)
- Gender equality: Levelling the field
ResearchProfessional News, 7 March 2024, [link](#)
- Coimbra Group joins movement against narrow rankings
ResearchProfessional News, 16 February 2024, [link](#)
- Universities ready to take up generative artificial intelligence, but say guidelines are needed
Science Business, 24 October 2023, [link](#)
- The UK Horizon deal: A timeline of the twists and turns that got us here
Science Business, 8 September 2023, [link](#)

IV.III COIMBRA GROUP NEWSLETTERS

CG monthly Newsletter issues begin with editorials. These editorials are conceived as policy messages which are then leveraged via the CG website and social media accounts. **Table 2** lists the authors of all editorials published throughout the past academic year. Full editorials can be found in **Annex 5**.

CG Newsletter informs CG members and voluntary subscribers about the network's latest and upcoming activities and developments. The content is prepared by the Office staff and the Working Groups Chairs and Vice-Chairs. In addition, the newsletter features three sections of content for relevant announcements:

- by CG members; we are grateful to our members for sending meaningful contributions every month and making this communication tool a widespread success.
- in connection with the European University Initiative and from Alliances with CG Universities.
- by the EU institutions, international organisations, other stakeholders and partners.

Although most of their content is public and freely available, CG monthly Newsletters also give CG members access to some exclusive content (e.g. working documents or presentations from EU meetings uploaded on the CG intranet; etc.).

Table 2: Newsletter Editorials in 2023-2024

May 2023	President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh (University of Galway)	"Valuing student voice, engagement and partnership"
June 2023	Rector Axel Freimuth (University of Cologne)	"Why we need to think globally"
July 2023	Vice-Chancellor Anders Hagfeldt (Uppsala University)	"The Swedish presidency and academic freedom"
August 2023	Rector Jacek Popiel (Jagiellonian University in Krakow)	"What does Nicolaus Copernicus teach us?"

Sept. 2023	Coimbra Group Executive Board Members	“2023-2024: Coimbra Group priorities in a year of changes and high expectations”
Oct. 2023	Rector Magnificus Henk Kummeling (Utrecht University)	“Current university rankings are not consistent with Open Science”
Nov. 2023	Vice-Chancellor Peter Mathieson (University of Edinburgh) Vice-Chancellor Karen O’Brien (University of Durham) Vice-Chancellor Evelyn Welch (University of Bristol)	“UK association to Horizon Europe - a win for global research”
Dec. 2023	Ludovic Thilly, Beatrix Busse, Emmanuelle Gardan (EB Chair, EB Vice-Chair, Director)	“Achieving Excellence at Universities: What does it mean in times of multiple crises?”
January 2024	Rector Joan Guàrdia Olmos (University of Barcelona) Rector Pedro Mercado Pacheco (University of Granada) Rector Ricardo Rivero (University of Salamanca)	“Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU 2023: Many achievements but concerns about unresolved issues”
February 2024	Rector Yves Flückiger (University of Geneva)	“Dreams and hopes for the future of universities”
March 2024	President Paul Pauli Vice-President Doris Fischer (University of Würzburg)	“European universities’ collaboration with China: Beyond a fear-driven approach”
April 2024	Rector Roberto Di Pietra (University of Siena)	“What Research for the Future? Balancing the Obsession with Publishing and the Need for Social Impact”

V. Formal Decisions to be taken by the General Assembly

As announced by the EB Chair in a letter dated from 8 March 2024, and upon the decision of the EB and RAG on 24 January 2024, **all statutory votes (see the list below), as well as the vote for the EB elections, will be conducted electronically** in 2024. The online voting system will remain open from 27 May until 2 June 2024 at 12pm CEST (midday), and the results will be announced on 7 June during the General Assembly.

Voters are encouraged to take part in the **informative online meeting** taking place on **23 May 2024 at 11h CEST** with EB members and the outgoing and incoming AFC Chairs.

The following resolutions will be exactly reproduced on the online voting system:

V.1 FORMAL RATIFICATION OF CG FINANCES AND APPROVAL OF CG MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2025

Support Documents:

- *Annex 1: Financial documents*
 - *Annex 1.1 2023-2025 Budgets and Accounts*
 - *Annex 1.2 Summary Balance Sheet 2023*
 - *Annex 1.3 Balance Sheet & Profit and Loss Accounts 2023*
 - *Annex 1.4 Auditor's Report on 2023 accounts*
 - *Annex 1.5 Membership fee proposal for 2025*
 - *Annex 1.6 Minutes of the AFC Meeting, 4 April 2024*

Proposed resolution 1.1: The General Assembly of the Coimbra Group ratifies the 2023 accounts, the revised 2024 budget and the draft 2025 budget, previously approved by the Executive Board after consultation with the Administrative and Financial Committee and controlled by the external auditor.

In conclusion, the General Assembly releases the Executive Board members from all financial liabilities with respect to the financial management of the Coimbra Group asbl during the past fiscal year (2023).

Proposed resolution 1.2: The General Assembly of the Coimbra Group approves the proposed membership fee for 2025 at €15,971.

V.2 ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

There are two vacancies to be covered on the Executive Board. Two members of the Executive Board will come to the end of their second four-year term in office: Professors Lenka Rovná (Charles University) and Ludovic Thilly (University of Poitiers).

Support Documents:

Annex 2: Application Documents Executive Board candidates

- *Annexes 2.1.1-3 Professor Eva Voldřichová Beránková (Charles University)*
- *Annexes 2.2.1-3 Professor Ludovic Thilly (University of Poitiers)*

Proposed resolution 2: The General Assembly of the Coimbra Group is invited to vote to elect two members on the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group.

Annexes

ANNEXES

TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

ANNEX 1- FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

- *Annex 1.1 2021-2025 Budgets and Accounts*
- *Annex 1.2 Summary Balance Sheet 2023*
- *Annex 1.3 Balance Sheet & Profit and Loss Accounts 2023*
- *Annex 1.4 Auditor's Report on 2023 accounts*
- *Annex 1.5 Membership fee proposal for 2025*
- *Annex 1.6 Minutes of the AFC Meeting, 4 April 2024*

ANNEX 2- APPLICATION DOCUMENTS EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES

- *Annexes 2.1.1-3 Professor Eva Voldřichová Beránková, Charles University*
- *Annexes 2.2.1-3 Professor Ludovic Thilly, University of Poitiers*

ANNEX 3- WORKING GROUPS WORK PLANS FOR 2024-2026

ANNEX 4- COIMBRA GROUP STATEMENTS AND POLICY PAPERS 2023-2024

- *Annex 4.1. Reaction to the EU Innovation Council Board's statement on intellectual property*
- *Annex 4.2. 25 R&I organisations urge the African Union and European Union to take a novel funding approach to science cooperation*
- *Annex 4.3. Freedom and Autonomy of Science and Research in Israel*
- *Annex 4.4. Coimbra Group signs Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations*
- *Annex 4.5. Coimbra Group welcomes announcement of UK association to Horizon Europe*
- *Annex 4.6. European university associations welcome proposal for Council. Recommendation on research careers – further steps needed*
- *Annex 4.7. Coimbra Group's Recommendations for the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 Interim Evaluation*
- *Annex 4.8. Coimbra Group joins the conversation on Open Science*
- *Annex 4.9. Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information*

- *Annex 4.10. Coimbra Group supports the More Than Our Rank initiative*
- *Annex 4.11. Coimbra Group Statement on Universities in Nicaragua*

ANNEX 5 - NEWSLETTER EDITORIALS 2023-2024

ANNEX 6 - CG 3MT COMPETITION 2024

ANNEX 7- SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME PRELIMINARY FIGURES 2024 & TRENDS

Annex 1

Financial documents

- Annex 1.1 2021-2025 Budgets and Accounts
- Annex 1.2 Summary Balance Sheet 2023
- Annex 1.3 Balance Sheet & Profit and Loss Accounts 2023
- Annex 1.4 Auditor's Report on 2023 accounts
- Annex 1.5 Membership fee proposal for 2025
- Annex 1.6 Minutes of the AFC Meeting, 4 April 2024

2021-2025 Coimbra Group Budgets & Accounts

OVERVIEW

	2021	2022	2023		2024		2025
	Accounts 2021	Accounts 2022	Revised Budget 2023	Final accounts 2023	Draft Budget 2024	Revised Budget 2024	Draft Budget 2025
Accumulated surplus brought forward from previous year (taking into account only reserve account at the bank)	189,676.78	249,243.47	463,864.31	463,864.31	462,691.88	626,710.22	662,430.93
REVENUE							
I. Use of accumulated surplus	N/A	N/A	0.00	0.00	20,166.95	0.00	59,371.00
II. Members' subscriptions	424,719.00	538,680.00	594,440.00	594,440.00	638,840.00	638,840.00	638,840.00
III. Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,428.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
IV. Bank interests	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,428.56	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
V. Reduction from employer's contributions	357.43	4,558.10	0.00	3,385.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
VI. Projects	55,195.58	0.00	30,222.00	27,354.65	11,054.00	15,366.77	11,739.00
TOTAL REVENUE	480,272.01	543,238.10	624,662.00	626,608.79	670,060.95	655,206.77	710,950.00
EXPENDITURE							
I. Operating costs	69,499.86	89,633.99	87,878.10	85,515.68	101,806.28	102,136.06	107,800.00
II. Labour costs	317,934.41	401,419.38	448,376.07	321,263.34	493,604.68	433,200.00	477,500.00
III. Strategic initiatives	22,101.25	16,076.30	81,000.00	54,823.49	74,650.00	81,650.00	123,150.00
IV. Projects	11,169.80	-18,534.22	9,300.00	2,160.37	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	420,705.32	488,595.45	626,554.17	463,762.88	670,060.95	619,486.06	710,950.00
Surplus / Deficit	59,566.69	54,642.65	-1,892.17	162,845.91	0.00	35,720.71	0.00
Accumulated surplus brought forward to next year (taking into account only reserve account at the bank)	249,243.47	463,864.31	461,972.14	626,710.22	442,524.93	662,430.93	603,059.93

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Accounts 2021	Accounts 2022	Final accounts 2023	Revised Budget 2024	Draft Budget 2025
Ratio Operating costs and Labour costs to Members' subscriptions (to check compliance with CG financial policy)	91.22%	91.16%	68.43%	83.80%	91.62%

2021-2025 Coimbra Group Budgets & Accounts

REVENUE

	2021	2022	2023		2024		2025
	Accounts 2021	Accounts 2022	Revised Budget 2023	Final accounts 2023	Draft Budget 2024	Revised Budget 2024	Draft Budget 2025
I. Use of accumulated surplus	N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,166.95	0.00	0.00
II. Members subscriptions	424,719.00	538,680.00	594,440.00	594,440.00	638,840.00	638,840.00	638,840.00
	41 x € 10,359	40 x € 13,467	40 x € 14,861 *	40 x € 14,861 *	40 x € 15,971	40 x € 15,971	40 x € 15,971
III. Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IV. Bank interests	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,428.56	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
V. Reduction in employer's social security contributions	357.43	4,558.10	0.00	3,385.58	0.00	0.00	0.00
VI. Projects	55,195.58	0.00	30,222.00	27,354.65	11,054.00	15,366.77	11,739.00
VI.5. UNISAFE (2019-2022 - CLOSED)	16,228.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	8,006.37	CLOSED
VI.6. CALOHE2 (2020-2022 - Under closure)	1,200.00	0.00	8,114.00	0.00	0.00	-300.00	CLOSED
VI.7. CalohEx (2020-2023 - Under closure)	740.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	327.40	CLOSED
VI.8. e-NOTE (2020-2023 - CLOSED)	22,108.00	0.00	0.00	22,108.00	11,054.00	-4,407.00	CLOSED
VI.9. EUNIVERSE (2023-2026)			22,108.00	0.00	0.00	11,740.00	11,739.00
Projects' instalments to be received				5,246.65			
TOTAL REVENUE	480,272.01	543,238.10	624,662.00	626,608.79	649,894.00	655,206.77	651,579.00

* St Petersburg University (SPbU) Coimbra Group membership was removed by CG Extraordinary General Assembly in April 2023.

2021-2025 Coimbra Group Budgets & Accounts

EXPENDITURE 1/2

	2021	2022	2023		2024		2025
	Accounts 2021	Accounts 2022	Revised Budget 2023	Final Accounts 2023	Draft Budget 2024	Revised Budget 2024	Draft Budget 2025
I. Operating costs	69,499.86	89,633.99	87,878.10	85,515.68	101,806.28	102,136.06	107,800.00
I.1. Premises (Rent, insurance)	24,597.85	24,799.35	26,250.00	26,225.83	26,750.00	26,833.56	30,000.00
I.2. Office costs	17,941.13	14,561.66	13,000.00	10,902.03	13,935.00	13,935.00	14,000.00
I.2.a. Running costs (office supplies, IT equipment & maintenance, bank charges)	16,560.88	12,706.32	11,000.00	8,902.50	11,935.00	11,935.00	12,000.00
I.2.b. Depreciation costs (IT equipment)	1,380.25	1,855.34	2,000.00	1,999.53	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
I.3. Communications costs (Phone, internet, mailing)	3,906.68	5,588.55	5,500.00	4,956.52	5,967.50	5,967.50	6,200.00
I.4. Meeting expenses Meeting costs, seminars and conferences	1,524.02	11,360.26	10,000.00	10,806.59	13,800.00	15,000.00	17,000.00
I.5. Publications	1,938.34	1,350.52	1,500.00	561.66	1,500.00	1,500.00	600.00
I.5.a. Running costs (Documents, Legal acts...)	1,937.32	1,350.52	1,500.00	561.66	1,500.00	1,500.00	600.00
I.5.b. Depreciation new web site	1.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I.6. Travel expenses (local + international)	898.41	13,965.69	12,000.00	12,264.87	15,000.00	15,000.00	16,000.00
I.7. Accountancy & Audit	18,693.43	18,007.96	19,628.10	19,798.18	19,853.78	18,900.00	19,000.00
I.8. Contingencies for operation cost increases	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
II. Labour costs	317,934.41	401,419.38	448,376.07	321,263.34	493,604.68	433,200.00	477,500.00
II.1. Salaries	257,163.58	325,614.61	358,176.07	254,158.56	393,993.68	350,000.00	385,000.00
II.1.a. Gross salaries, group insurance, training	251,757.30	325,614.61	358,176.07	254,158.56	393,993.68	330,000.00	385,000.00
II.1.b. Secretarial assistance	5,406.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
II.2. Charges on salary (ONSS)	53,294.44	67,223.82	75,500.00	57,802.17	84,711.00	67,000.00	75,000.00
II.3 Salary Administration (Payroll administration, medical services, work & travel insurance)	5,876.39	7,780.95	7,300.00	6,902.61	7,500.00	7,200.00	7,500.00
II.4 Interns	1,600.00	800.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	4,000.00	5,000.00
II.5. Contingencies for labour cost increases	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00

2021-2025 Coimbra Group Budgets & Accounts

EXPENDITURE 2/2

	2021	2022	2023		2024		2025
	Accounts 2021	Accounts 2022	Revised Budget 2023	Final Accounts 2023	Draft Budget 2024	Revised Budget 2024	Draft Budget 2025
III. Strategic initiatives	22,101.25	16,076.30	81,000.00	54,823.49	74,650.00	81,650.00	123,150.00
III.1. High-Level Policy Seminars	7,481.13	3,753.88	10,000.00	8,674.30	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
III.2. Communication strategy and activities	7,994.19	3,399.12	15,000.00	22,848.45	15,500.00	22,500.00	34,000.00
III.2.a. Communication consulting	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	16,353.17	5,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
III.2.b. New website & newsletter running costs	7,691.69	4,907.06	8,000.00	6,410.28	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
III.2.c. Branding materials	0.00	-1,507.94	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	6,000.00
III.2.d. Communication tools	302.50	0.00	0.00	85.00	500.00	500.00	10,000.00
III.3. Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00
III.3. 40th Anniversary Reception in Brussels							25,000.00
III.4. Competition & Awards	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
3-Minute Thesis Competition	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	5,600.00	5,600.00
III.5 New strategic initiatives	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
III.6. Advocacy representation	625.93	2,923.30	10,000.00	7,800.74	3,150.00	3,150.00	3,150.00
III.7 Support to Working Groups		0.00	25,000.00	9,500.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
IV. Projects	11,169.80	-18,534.22	9,300.00	2,160.37	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
VI.5. UNISAFE (2019-2022 - CLOSED)	0.00	3,262.08	N/A	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A
VI.6. CALOHE2 (2020-2022 - Under closure)	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A
VI.7. CalohEx (2020-2023 - Under closure)	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	N/A	N/A
VI.8. e-NOTE (2020-2023 - CLOSED)	0.00	444.63	8,500.00	3,625.92	0.00	N/A	N/A
VI.9. EUNIVERSE (2023-2026)	N/A	N/A		0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Expenses to be incurred on projects	11,169.80	3,085.43		0.00			
Reversal of costs to be incurred on projects		-29,602.36		-3,085.43			
Project expenses to be incurred		300.00		1,619.88			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	420,705.32	488,595.45	626,554.17	463,762.88	670,060.96	619,486.06	710,950.00

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BALANCE SHEET ON 31 DECEMBER 2023

(in italic blue, 2022 figures for reference)

ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
<u>Tangible and Intangible Fixed Assets</u>			<u>Capital (owners' equities)</u>		
Tangible assets Computer Equipment	1,832.18	<i>3,831.71</i>	Available reserve 1/1/2023	463,864.31	<i>409,221.66</i>
			Result 2023	162,845.91	<i>54,642.65</i>
			Available reserve 31/12/2023	626,710.22	<i>463,864.31</i>
<u>Financial Fixed Assets (Investments)</u>			<u>Provision for liabilities and charges</u>		
Guarantees paid for social secretariat	120.00	<i>120.00</i>	Prov. Reduction Subsidies	10,000.00	<i>10,000.00</i>
			Prov. For Project Loss	1,619.88	<i>0.00</i>
<u>Cash at bank and on hand</u>			<u>Accounts Payable (Creditors)</u>		
Banks	669,551.03	<i>535,585.59</i>	Suppliers	-1,504.24	<i>13,841.97</i>
			Invoices to receive	7,560.08	<i>6,166.00</i>
			Credit from members	40.00	<i>0.00</i>
<u>Accounts Receivable (Debtors)</u>			<u>Staff Costs Payable</u>		
	0.00	<i>40.00</i>	Vacation Allowances	32,023.92	<i>42,320.68</i>
			Meal Vouchers	0.00	<i>-1.09</i>
<u>Accrued income</u>			<u>Accrued charges & deferred income</u>		
EU projects	5,246.65	<i>0.00</i>	Reimbursement on projects	300.00	<i>300.00</i>
			Costs to be incurred on projects	0.00	<i>3,085.43</i>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	676,749.86		<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	676,749.86	

		Ex. 2023 Rep 2023 --> Clô 2023 01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	Ex. 2022 Rep 2022 --> Clô 2022 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
ACTIFS IMMOBILISES		20/28	1.952,18
Immobilisations incorporelles		21	3.951,71
211000	DEVELOPPEMENT SITE WEB	6.418,04	6.418,04
211009	AMORT S/DEVELOPP SITE WEB	(6.418,04)	(6.418,04)
Immobilisations corporelles		22/27	1.832,18
Installations; machines et outillage		23	1.832,18
Appartenant à l'association en pleine propriété		231	1.832,18
231001	MATERIEL INFORMATIQUE	10.761,98	10.761,98
231002	MATERIEL INFORMATIQUE	3.934,24	3.934,24
231003	MATERIEL INFORMATIQUE	5.130,58	5.130,58
231004	MATERIEL INFORMAT 98	2.181,22	2.181,22
231009	AMORT S/ MATER INFORM AL 0	(1.580,32)	(1.580,32)
231010	MAT INFO RESEAU 2000	4.740,96	4.740,96
231011	MAT INFO RESEAU AM LAT 00	1.580,32	1.580,32
231012	MATER INFORMATIQUE	31.412,01	31.412,01
231013	SITE WEB	20.328,00	20.328,00
231019	AMORT S/RESEAU INFO 2000	(20.328,00)	(20.328,00)
231049	AMORT S/MAT INFO 98	(2.181,22)	(2.181,22)
231902	AMORT S/MAT INFO	(3.934,24)	(3.934,24)
231910	AMORT S/MATER INFO	(10.761,98)	(10.761,98)
231912	AMORT S/MATER INFORM	(29.579,83)	(27.580,30)
231913	AMORT S MATER INFORM	(5.130,58)	(5.130,58)
231914	AMORT SUR SITE WEB	(4.740,96)	(4.740,96)
Mobilier et matériel roulant		24	
Appartenant à l'association en pleine propriété		241	
241001	MOBILIER	1.112,92	1.112,92
241002	MOBILIER BUREAU	1.503,08	1.503,08
241100	MATERIEL	3.881,00	3.881,00
241900	AMORT S MOB BUREAU	(1.503,08)	(1.503,08)
241901	AMORT S/MOB	(1.112,92)	(1.112,92)
241910	AMORT / MATER	(3.881,00)	(3.881,00)
Immobilisations financières		28	120,00
Autres immobilisations financières		284/8	120,00
Créances et cautionnements en numéraire		285/8	120,00

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		Ex. 2023 Rep 2023 --> Clô 2023 01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	Ex. 2022 Rep 2022 --> Clô 2022 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
288010	CAUTION SECRET SOCIAL	120,00	120,00
	ACTIFS CIRCULANTS	29/58	674.797,68
	Créances à un an au plus	40/41	40,00
	Créances commerciales	40	40,00
	400000 CLIENTS		40,00
	Valeurs disponibles	54/58	669.551,03
	550001 BELFIUS 528-32	10.355,49	22.704,63
	550310 BELFIUS COTISATIONS 527-31	151.493,51	29.611,54
	550605 BELFIUS RESERVE 088-3792-21	432.047,30	430.618,74
	550650 BELFIUS BALANCE 947-93	75.654,73	52.650,68
	Comptes de régularisation	490/1	5.246,65
	491000 PRODUITS ACQUIS ACCRUED INCOME	5.246,65	
Montant total de l'actif		676.749,86	539.577,30

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		Ex. 2023 Rep 2023 --> Clô 2023 01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	Ex. 2022 Rep 2022 --> Clô 2022 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
FONDS SOCIAL			
Fonds affectés	10/15	626.710,22	463.864,31
133100 RESERVES DISPONIBLES	13	626.710,22	463.864,31
PROVISIONS			
Provisions pour risques et charges	16	11.619,88	10.000,00
Autres risques et charges	160/5	11.619,88	10.000,00
163000 PROVISIONS REDUCTION SUBSIDES	163/5	10.000,00	10.000,00
163010 PROVISION FOR PROJECT LOSS		1.619,88	
DETTES			
Dettes à un an au plus	17/49	38.419,76	65.712,99
Dettes commerciales	42/48	38.119,76	62.327,56
Fournisseurs	44	6.095,84	20.007,97
440000 FOURNISSEURS	440/4	6.095,84	20.007,97
444000 FACTURES A RECEVOIR		(1.504,24)	13.841,97
*** 445000 CLIENTS CREDITEURS		7.560,08	6.166,00
		40,00	
Dettes fiscales; salariales et sociales	45	32.023,92	42.319,59
Rémunérations et charges sociales	454/9	32.023,92	42.319,59
456100 PECULE VACANCES A PAYER		32.023,92	42.320,68
459820 CHEQUES REPAS PART TRAVAILLEUR			(1,09)
Comptes de régularisation	492/3	300,00	3.385,43
492100 REMBOURSEMENT PROJET		300,00	300,00
492200 FRAIS A ENGAGER			3.085,43
Montant total du passif		676.749,86	539.577,30

		Ex. 2023 Rep 2023 --> Clô 2023	Ex. 2022 Rep 2022 --> Clô 2022
		01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
COMPTE DE RESULTATS			
Ventes et prestations	70/74	625.180,23	543.238,10
Cotisations; dons; legs et subsides	73	621.794,65	538.680,00
730000 COTISATIONS UNIVERSITES		594.440,00	538.680,00
737055 PROJET ENOTE		22.108,00	
737510 SUBSIDES A RECEVOIR-SUBSIDIES RECEIVABLE		5.246,65	
Autres produits d'exploitation	74	3.385,58	4.558,10
748999 REDUCTION ONSS		3.385,58	4.558,10
Coût des ventes et des prestations	60/64	(463.549,41)	(488.397,75)
Services et biens divers	61	(161.203,30)	(103.844,59)
610110 LOYER BUREAU		(25.856,25)	(24.450,00)
610111 LOYER MEETING ROOM		(3.395,00)	(3.666,60)
611320 ENTRET MATER INFO		(6.364,98)	(6.522,01)
612415 MATERIEL BUREAU BUREAU		(29,99)	
612420 FOURNITURES DE BUREAU		(807,11)	(2.277,11)
612425 IMPRESSIONS-COPIES		(196,44)	(196,01)
612450 MEUBLES BUREAU		(79,89)	(2.395,80)
612451 COMMUNICATION CONSULTING		(16.353,17)	
612452 NEW WEBSITE NEWSLETTER		(6.410,28)	(4.907,06)
612453 BRANDING MATERIALS			343,01
612454 COMMUNICATION TOOLS		(85,00)	
612500 TELEPHONE		(2.478,90)	(2.747,65)
612505 G S M		(2.026,74)	(2.314,14)
612510 INTERNET		(204,00)	(203,49)
612530 FRAIS DE POSTE		(450,88)	(526,76)
613240 HONORAIRES REVISEUR		(8.854,94)	(7.255,00)
613242 HONORAIRES AVOCAT		(319,44)	(1.134,38)
613290 HONORAIRES COMPTABILITE		(10.943,24)	(10.752,96)
613300 HONORAIRES SECRET SOCIAUX		(3.770,88)	(4.772,20)
613301 FRAIS ADMIN CHQ REPAS		(624,87)	(745,56)
613500 ASSURANCE INCENDIE		(124,66)	(125,98)
613505 ASSURANCE BRIS DE MACHINES		(244,92)	(223,37)
613510 EUROP ASSISTANCE		(71,96)	(393,00)
613555 AXA ASS GROUPE		(13.003,36)	(16.205,42)
613600 ASSUR ACCIDENT TRAVAIL		(2.434,90)	(1.870,19)
615100 VOYAGES		(18.169,89)	(11.385,69)
615103 RESTAURANTS_CATERING		(10.166,49)	(8.628,43)
615119 SEMINAIRES		(3.342,85)	(1.320,25)
615120 CANTINE		(323,13)	(269,75)
615124 SEMINAIRE POLICY SEMINARS		(8.674,30)	(3.753,88)
615130 CADEAUX		(338,05)	(369,70)
615136 PRIZE THREE MINUTE		(6.000,00)	(6.000,00)
615140 WG FUNDING SCHEMA		(9.500,00)	
615310 PUBLICATIONS MONITEUR		(242,22)	(216,14)
615350 FRAIS A ENGAGER SUR PROJETS			(3.385,43)

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		Ex. 2023 Rep 2023 --> Clô 2023	Ex. 2022 Rep 2022 --> Clô 2022
		01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
615355	REPRISE FRAIS A ENGAGER SUR PROJETS	3.085,43	25.626,36
617100	ALLOCATION STAGIAIRE	(2.400,00)	(800,00)
Rémunérations; charges sociales et pensions (+)(-)	62	(297.808,16)	(381.849,88)
620200	EMPLOYES	(194.979,77)	(239.987,94)
620250	DIVERS BRUTS		(115,85)
620254	PRIME FIN ANNEE	(15.766,23)	(20.901,17)
620271	DEPLACEMENTS DOM TRAVAIL	(1.258,07)	(901,14)
620272	REMBOURSEMENT DE FRAIS	(2.100,00)	(6.458,34)
620275	FORFAIT REPRESENTATION	(4.980,00)	(6.180,00)
620277	FRAIS DE MISSION	(93,64)	(78,78)
620291	PECULE VACANCES	(22.886,91)	(23.307,81)
620292	PECULE VAC ANT ANNEE EN COURS	(3.041,81)	(1.161,63)
*** 620500	PART PATRONALE CHQ REPAS	(5.196,32)	(7.304,30)
621200	ONSS PATRONALE EMPLOYE	(55.094,69)	(67.223,82)
621360	ONSS COT / AVANT EXTRA LEGAUX	(2.707,48)	
*** 625100	DOTAT PROV PEC VACANCES	10.296,76	(8.229,10)
Amortissements et réductions de valeur sur frais d'établissement; sur immobilisations incorporelles et corporelles	630	(1.999,53)	(1.855,34)
630100	DOTATIONS AUX AMO SUR IMMO CORPO	(1.999,53)	(1.855,34)
Provisions pour risques et charges: dotations (utilisations et reprises(+)(-)	635/8	(1.619,88)	
636010	FRAIS SUR PROJECTS - PROJECT EXPENSES	(1.619,88)	
Autres charges d'exploitation	640/8	(918,54)	(847,94)
640160	TAXE ANNUELLE SUR ASBL	(918,54)	(847,94)
Résultat positif (négatif) d'exploitation (+)(-)	9901	161.630,82	54.840,35
Produits financiers	75	1.428,56	
Produits des immobilisations financières	750	1.428,56	
750001	INTERETS CREDITEURS	1.428,56	
Charges financières	65	(213,47)	(197,70)
Autres charges financières	652/9	(213,47)	(197,70)
659010	FRAIS DE BANQUE	(213,47)	(197,70)
Résultat positif (négatif) courant (+)(-)	9902	162.845,91	54.642,65
Bénéfice (Perte) de l'exercice avant impôts	9903	162.845,91	54.642,65
Résultat positif (négatif) de l'exercice	9904	162.845,91	54.642,65
AFFECTATIONS ET PRELEVEMENTS			
Résultat positif (négatif) à affecter	9906	626.710,22	463.864,31
Résultat positif (négatif) de l'exercice à affecter	9905	162.845,91	54.642,65
Résultat positif (négatif) de l'exercice antérieur reporté	14P	463.864,31	409.221,66
790000	PRELEV SUR LE RESULTAT REPORTE	463.864,31	409.221,66
Affectations aux fonds affectés	692	(626.710,22)	(463.864,31)
692100	DOTATION AUX AUTRES RESERVES	(626.710,22)	(463.864,31)
Résultat positif (négatif) à reporter	(14)		

Bilan interne ASBL

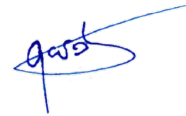
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Schéma complet

	Ex. 2023 Rep 2023 --> Clô 2023 01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023	Ex. 2022 Rep 2022 --> Clô 2022 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022
Comptes hors bilan		
445000 - CLIENTS CREDITEURS	40	
620500 - PART PATRONALE CHQ REPAS	(5.196)	
625100 - DOTAT PROV PEC VACANCES	10.297	
Reclassement bilantaire		



Ludovic Thilly
Président de l'organe d'administration



Emmanuelle Gardan
Directrice

To the members of A.S.B.L.
COIMBRA GROUP
Rue d'Egmont 11
1000 Bruxelles

**AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF
MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION "COIMBRA GROUP" FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

In accordance with our mission described below, we report to you on the control of financial statements for the year ended 31 december 2023.

We have carried out an audit of the financial statements of the ASBL COIMBRA GROUP for the financial year ended 31 december 2023, established on the basis of accounting regulations applicable in Belgium, whose balance sheet total amounts to € 676.749,86 and a profit and loss account showing a profit for the year of € 162.845,91.

The board of directors is responsible for establishing the annual accounts giving a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting regulations applicable in Belgium, as well as for the internal control that the board of directors deems necessary to enable the establishment of the annual accounts. which are free from material misstatements.

In accordance with our mission, our responsibility is to express an opinion on these annual accounts based on our audit. We carried out our audit according to the standard relating to the audit of small non-profit organizations and foundations. This standard requires us to plan and carry out controls to ensure that the annual accounts do not contain any significant anomalies. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that apply to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence as provided for by said standard.

Our control involves the implementation of procedures as provided for in the standard relating to the control of small non-profit organizations and foundations with a view to collecting various conclusive elements concerning the amounts and information provided in the financial statements. The choice of procedures implemented, including a limited assessment of the risks that the financial statements contain material anomalies, falls within the professional judgment of the auditor. In carrying out this risk assessment, we have defined appropriate control procedures according to the circumstances, and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control of ASBL COIMBRA GROUP.

We believe that the evidence collected is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, in accordance with the provisions of the standard relating to the control of small non-profit organizations and foundations, the attached annual accounts give a faithful image of the assets and financial situation of the non-profit organization COIMBRA GROUP as of 31 december 2023, as well as of its results for the financial year ending on that date, in accordance with the accounting regulations applicable in Belgium.

This report cannot be used for other purposes and its distribution is limited to the intended use in the mission.

25.04.2024
JEAN-GUY DIDIER S.R.L.
Represented by

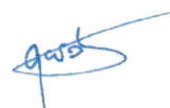
Jean-Guy DIDIER
Auditor



**COMPTES ANNUELS ET AUTRES DOCUMENTS À
DÉPOSER EN VERTU DU CODE DES SOCIÉTÉS
ET DES ASSOCIATIONS**

DONNÉES D'IDENTIFICATION (à la date du dépôt)DÉNOMINATION: *Coimbra Group*Forme juridique: *Association sans but lucratif*Adresse: *Rue D'Egmont* N°: *11* Boîte:Code postal: *1000* Commune: *Bruxelles*Pays: *Belgique*Registre des personnes morales (RPM) - Tribunal de l'entreprise de *Bruxelles, francophone*Adresse Internet¹:Numéro d'entreprise 0477.468.939DATE 15 / 11 / 2023 de dépôt du document le plus récent mentionnant la date de publication des actes constitutif et modificatif(s) des statuts.COMPTES ANNUELS EUROapprouvés par l'assemblée générale² du 07 / 06 / 2024et relatifs à l'exercice couvrant la période du 01 / 01 / 2023 au 31 / 12 / 2023Exercice précédent du 01 / 01 / 2022 au 31 / 12 / 2022Les montants relatifs à l'exercice précédent ~~ne sont pas~~ ^{sont} identiques à ceux publiés antérieurementNombre total de pages déposées: *22* Numéros des sections du document normalisé non déposées parce que sans objet:


THILLY Ludovic
Président



GARDAN Emmanuelle
Directrice

¹ Mention facultative.

² Par le conseil d'administration dans le cas d'une fondation / par l'organe général de direction dans le cas d'une association internationale sans but lucratif.

³ Biffer la mention inutile.

LISTE DES ADMINISTRATEURS ET COMMISSAIRES
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LISTE DES ADMINISTRATEURS ET COMMISSAIRES

LISTE COMPLÈTE des nom, prénoms, profession, domicile (adresse, numéro, code postal et commune) et fonction au sein de l'association ou de la fondation

<i>Lenka ROVNA Klokocna 36, 25164 MNICHOVICE, République Tchèque</i>	<i>Administrateur 12/06/2020 -</i>
<i>Ludovic THILLY Condorcet 10, 86000 POITIERS, France</i>	<i>Président du Conseil d'Administration 12/06/2020 -</i>
<i>Daniel DONOGHUE High Row 1, DL10 5NA RICHMOND, Royaume-Uni</i>	<i>Administrateur 18/06/2021 -</i>
<i>MALEC Dorota Aleja Slowackiego 10 boîte a, 31159 KRAKOW, Pologne</i>	<i>Administrateur 10/06/2022 -</i>
<i>YILDIZ SADAK Efrem Gran Via 97 boîte 2, 37001 SALAMANCA, Espagne</i>	<i>Administrateur 10/06/2022 -</i>
<i>Beatrix BUSSE Goldammerweg 2, 50858 KOLN, Allemagne</i>	<i>Administrateur 18/06/2021 -</i>
<i>Coco NOREN Kopenhamngatan 9, 75364 UPPSALA, Suède</i>	<i>Administrateur 18/06/2021 -</i>
<i>Antonella FORLINO Via Gadda 85, I-27016 san t Alessio Con Vialone, Italie</i>	<i>Administrateur 02/06/2023 -</i>
<i>Piia BJORN Rekoolikatu 9, F-40520 JYVASKYLA, Finlande</i>	<i>Administrateur 02/06/2023 -</i>
<i>Joao RAMALHO DE SOUSA ANTOS Rua Paul Harris 19.2, P-3030-508 COIMBRA, Portugal</i>	<i>Administrateur 02/06/2023 -</i>
<i>LMGJC Management srl N°: 0597.735.378 Rue du Centry 30, 1390 Grez-Doiceau, Belgique N° de membre: 70461507</i>	<i>Expert-comptable externe</i>
<i>Représenté(es) par:</i>	
<i>Luc BASECQ (Expert Comptable IITA) Rue du Centry 30, 1390 Grez-Doiceau, Belgique N° de membre: 10.049.604</i>	
<i>DIDIER Jean-Guy srl N°: 0862.287.141 Rue de la Bannière 1 boîte F, 7190 Ecaussinnes, Belgique N° de membre: B00359</i>	<i>Réviseur d'entreprises</i>
<i>Représenté(es) par:</i>	
<i>Jean Guy DIDIER (Réviseur) EEeckhout 35, 1840 Londerzeel, Belgique N° de membre: A01869</i>	

COMPTES ANNUELS

BILAN APRÈS RÉPARTITION

	Ann.	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
ACTIF				
FRAIS D'ÉTABLISSEMENT		20	.....	.....
ACTIFS IMMOBILISÉS		21/28	1.952,18	3.951,71
Immobilisations incorporelles	6.1.1	21	.....	.....
Immobilisations corporelles	6.1.2	22/27	1.832,18	3.831,71
Terrains et constructions		22	.....	.....
Installations, machines et outillage		23	1.832,18	3.831,71
Mobilier et matériel roulant		24	.....	.....
Location-financement et droits similaires		25	.....	.....
Autres immobilisations corporelles		26	.....	.....
Immobilisations en cours et acomptes versés		27	.....	.....
Immobilisations financières	6.1.3	28	120,00	120,00
ACTIFS CIRCULANTS		29/58	674.797,68	535.625,59
Créances à plus d'un an		29	.....	.....
Créances commerciales		290	.....	.....
Autres créances		291	.....	.....
Stocks et commandes en cours d'exécution		3	.....	.....
Stocks		30/36	.....	.....
Commandes en cours d'exécution		37	.....	.....
Créances à un an au plus		40/41	.....	40,00
Créances commerciales		40	.....	40,00
Autres créances		41	.....	.....
Placements de trésorerie		50/53	.....	.....
Valeurs disponibles		54/58	669.551,03	535.585,59
Comptes de régularisation		490/1	5.246,65	.....
TOTAL DE L'ACTIF		20/58	676.749,86	539.577,30

	Ann.	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
PASSIF				
CAPITAUX PROPRES		10/15	626.710,22	463.864,31
Fonds de l'association ou de la fondation	6.2	10	.....	.....
Plus-values de réévaluation		12	.....	.....
Fonds affectés et autres réserves	6.3	13	626.710,22	463.864,31
Bénéfice (Perte) reporté(e)		14	.....	.....
Subsides en capital		15	.....	.....
PROVISIONS ET IMPÔTS DIFFÉRÉS	6.2	16	11.619,88	10.000,00
Provisions pour risques et charges		160/5	.....	.....
Pensions et obligations similaires		160	.....	.....
Charges fiscales		161	.....	.....
Grosses réparations et gros entretien		162	.....	.....
Obligations environnementales		163	.....	.....
Autres risques et charges		164/5	.....	.....
Provisions pour subsides et legs à rembourser et pour dons avec droit de reprise		167	11.619,88	10.000,00
Impôts différés		168	.....	.....
DETTES		17/49	38.419,76	65.712,99
Dettes à plus d'un an	6.3	17	.....	.....
Dettes financières		170/4	.....	.....
Etablissements de crédit, dettes de location-financement et dettes assimilées		172/3	.....	.....
Autres emprunts		174/0	.....	.....
Dettes commerciales		175	.....	.....
Acomptes sur commandes		176	.....	.....
Autres dettes		178/9	.....	.....
Dettes à un an au plus	6.3	42/48	38.119,76	62.327,56
Dettes à plus d'un an échéant dans l'année		42	.....	.....
Dettes financières		43	.....	.....
Etablissements de crédit		430/8	.....	.....
Autres emprunts		439	.....	.....
Dettes commerciales		44	6.095,84	20.007,97
Fournisseurs		440/4	6.095,84	20.007,97
Effets à payer		441	.....	.....
Acomptes sur commandes		46	.....	.....
Dettes fiscales, salariales et sociales		45	32.023,92	42.319,59
Impôts		450/3	.....	.....
Rémunérations et charges sociales		454/9	32.023,92	42.319,59
Autres dettes		48	.....	.....
Comptes de régularisation		492/3	300,00	3.385,43
TOTAL DU PASSIF		10/49	676.749,86	539.577,30

COMPTE DE RÉSULTATS

	Ann.	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
Produits et charges d'exploitation				
Marge brute		9900	463.976,93	439.393,51
Produits d'exploitation non récurrents		76A	.....	.....
Chiffre d'affaires*		70	.....	.....
Cotisations, dons, legs et subsides*		73	621.794,65	538.680,00
Approvisionnements, marchandises, services et biens divers*		60/61	161.203,30	103.844,59
Rémunérations, charges sociales et pensions		62	297.808,16	381.849,88
Amortissements et réductions de valeur sur frais d'établissement, sur immobilisations incorporelles et corporelles		630	1.999,53	1.855,34
Réductions de valeur sur stocks, sur commandes en cours d'exécution et sur créances commerciales: dotations (reprises)		631/4	.....	.....
Provisions pour risques et charges: dotations (utilisations et reprises)		635/9	1.619,88	.....
Autres charges d'exploitation		640/8	918,54	847,94
Charges d'exploitation portées à l'actif au titre de frais de restructuration		649	.....	.....
Charges d'exploitation non récurrentes		66A	.....	.....
Bénéfice (Perte) d'exploitation		9901	161.630,82	54.840,35
Produits financiers	6.4	75/76B	1.428,56	.....
Produits financiers récurrents		75	1.428,56	.....
Produits financiers non récurrents		76B	.....	.....
Charges financières	6.4	65/66B	213,47	197,70
Charges financières récurrentes		65	213,47	197,70
Charges financières non récurrentes		66B	.....	.....
Bénéfice (Perte) de l'exercice avant impôts		9903	162.845,91	54.642,65
Prélèvement sur les impôts différés		780	.....	.....
Transfert aux impôts différés		680	.....	.....
Impôts sur le résultat		67/77	.....	.....
Bénéfice (Perte) de l'exercice		9904	162.845,91	54.642,65
Prélèvement sur les réserves immunisées		789	.....	.....
Transfert aux réserves immunisées		689	.....	.....
Bénéfice (Perte) de l'exercice à affecter		9905	162.845,91	54.642,65

* Mention facultative.

AFFECTATIONS ET PRÉLÈVEMENTS

	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
Bénéfice (Perte) à affecter(+)/(-)	9906	626.710,22	463.864,31
Bénéfice (Perte) de l'exercice à affecter(+)/(-)	(9905)	162.845,91	54.642,65
Bénéfice (Perte) reporté(e) de l'exercice précédent(+)/(-)	14P	463.864,31	409.221,66
Prélèvement sur les capitaux propres: fonds, fonds affectés et autres réserves	791	.....	.....
Affectation aux fonds affectés et autres réserves	691	626.710,22	463.864,31
Bénéfice (Perte) à reporter(+)/(-)	(14)	.....	.....

ANNEXE

ETAT DES IMMOBILISATIONS

	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
IMMOBILISATIONS INCORPORELLES			
Valeur d'acquisition au terme de l'exercice	8059P	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	6.418,00
Mutations de l'exercice			
Acquisitions, y compris la production immobilisée	8029	.....
Cessions et désaffectations	8039	.....
Transferts d'une rubrique à une autre(+)/(-)	8049	.....
Valeur d'acquisition au terme de l'exercice	8059	6.418,00	
Amortissements et réductions de valeur au terme de l'exercice			
	8129P	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	6.418,00
Mutations de l'exercice			
Actés	8079	.....
Repris	8089	.....
Acquis de tiers	8099	.....
Annulés à la suite de cessions et désaffectations	8109	.....
Transférés d'une rubrique à une autre(+)/(-)	8119	.....
Amortissements et réductions de valeur au terme de l'exercice	8129	6.418,00	
VALEUR COMPTABLE NETTE AU TERME DE L'EXERCICE	(21)	.....

	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
IMMOBILISATIONS CORPORELLES			
Valeur d'acquisition au terme de l'exercice	8199P	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	92.985,32
Mutations de l'exercice			
Acquisitions, y compris la production immobilisée	8169	.....
Cessions et désaffectations	8179	.....
Transferts d'une rubrique à une autre(+)/(-)	8189	.....
Valeur d'acquisition au terme de l'exercice	8199	92.985,32	
Plus-values au terme de l'exercice			
	8259P	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	.....
Mutations de l'exercice			
Actées	8219	.....
Acquises de tiers	8229	.....
Annulées	8239	.....
Transférées d'une rubrique à une autre(+)/(-)	8249	.....
Plus-values au terme de l'exercice	8259	.....
Amortissements et réductions de valeur au terme de l'exercice			
	8329P	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	89.153,61
Mutations de l'exercice			
Actés	8279	1.999,53	
Repris	8289	.....
Acquis de tiers	8299	.....
Annulés à la suite de cessions et désaffectations	8309	.....
Transférés d'une rubrique à une autre(+)/(-)	8319	.....
Amortissements et réductions de valeur au terme de l'exercice	8329	91.153,14	
VALEUR COMPTABLE NETTE AU TERME DE L'EXERCICE	(22/27)	1.832,18	
DONT			
Appartenant à l'association ou à la fondation en pleine propriété	8349	.....

	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
IMMOBILISATIONS FINANCIÈRES			
Valeur d'acquisition au terme de l'exercice	8395P	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	120,00
Mutations de l'exercice			
Acquisitions	8365	.....
Cessions et retraits	8375	.....
Transferts d'une rubrique à une autre	8385	.....
Autres mutations	8386	.....
Valeur d'acquisition au terme de l'exercice	8395	120,00	
Plus-values au terme de l'exercice	8455P	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	.....
Mutations de l'exercice			
Actées	8415	.....
Acquises de tiers	8425	.....
Annulées	8435	.....
Transférées d'une rubrique à une autre	8445	.....
Plus-values au terme de l'exercice	8455	.....
Réductions de valeur au terme de l'exercice	8525P	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	.....
Mutations de l'exercice			
Actées	8475	.....
Reprises	8485	.....
Acquises de tiers	8495	.....
Annulées à la suite de cessions et retraits	8505	.....
Transférées d'une rubrique à une autre	8515	.....
Réductions de valeur au terme de l'exercice	8525	.....
Montants non appelés au terme de l'exercice	8555P	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	.....
Mutations de l'exercice	8545	.....
Montants non appelés au terme de l'exercice	8555	.....
VALEUR COMPTABLE NETTE AU TERME DE L'EXERCICE	(28)	120,00	

ETAT DES FONDS, FONDS AFFECTÉS ET PROVISIONS

	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
FONDS			
Patrimoine de départ
Moyens permanents

	Exercice
Modifications au cours de l'exercice	
.....
.....
.....
.....

FONDS AFFECTÉS

Règles d'évaluation adoptées pour la détermination des montants affectés (*rubrique 13 du passif*)

	Exercice
PROVISIONS ET IMPÔTS DIFFÉRÉS	
Ventilation de la rubrique 167 du passif (Provisions pour subsides et legs à rembourser et pour dons avec droit de reprise) si celle-ci représente un montant important	
Provision réduction de subsides	11.619,98
.....
.....

ETAT DES DETTES

	Codes	Exercice
VENTILATION DES DETTES À L'ORIGINE À PLUS D'UN AN, EN FONCTION DE LEUR DURÉE RÉSIDUELLE		
Total des dettes à plus d'un an échéant dans l'année	(42)	.....
Total des dettes ayant plus d'un an mais 5 ans au plus à courir	8912	.....
Total des dettes ayant plus de 5 ans à courir	8913	.....
DETTES GARANTIES (comprises dans les rubriques 17 et 42/48 du passif)		
Dettes garanties par les pouvoirs publics belges		
Dettes financières	8921	.....
Etablissements de crédit, dettes de location-financement et dettes assimilées	891	.....
Autres emprunts	901	.....
Dettes commerciales	8981	.....
Fournisseurs	8991	.....
Effets à payer	9001	.....
Acomptes sur commandes	9011	.....
Dettes salariales et sociales	9021	.....
Autres dettes	9051	.....
Total des dettes garanties par les pouvoirs publics belges	9061	.....
Dettes garanties par des sûretés réelles constituées ou irrévocablement promises sur les actifs de l'association ou de la fondation		
Dettes financières	8922	.....
Etablissements de crédit, dettes de location-financement et dettes assimilées	892	.....
Autres emprunts	902	.....
Dettes commerciales	8982	.....
Fournisseurs	8992	.....
Effets à payer	9002	.....
Acomptes sur commandes	9012	.....
Dettes fiscales, salariales et sociales	9022	.....
Impôts	9032	.....
Rémunérations et charges sociales	9042	.....
Autres dettes	9052	.....
Total des dettes garanties par des sûretés réelles constituées ou irrévocablement promises sur les actifs de l'association ou fondation	9062	.....

RÉSULTATS

	Codes	Exercice	Exercice précédent
PERSONNEL			
Travailleurs pour lesquels la société a introduit une déclaration DIMONA ou qui sont inscrits au registre général du personnel			
Effectif moyen du personnel calculé en équivalents temps plein	9087	3,2	4,0
PRODUITS ET CHARGES DE TAILLE OU D'INCIDENCE EXCEPTIONNELLE			
Produits non récurrents	76	.....	.....
Produits d'exploitation non récurrents	(76A)	.....	.....
Produits financiers non récurrents	(76B)	.....	.....
Charges non récurrentes	66	.....	.....
Charges d'exploitation non récurrentes	(66A)	.....	.....
Charges financières non récurrentes	(66B)	.....	.....
RÉSULTATS FINANCIERS			
Intérêts portés à l'actif	6502	.....	.....

DROITS ET ENGAGEMENTS HORS BILAN

	Codes	Exercice
GARANTIES PERSONNELLES CONSTITUÉES OU IRRÉVOCABLEMENT PROMISES PAR LA SOCIÉTÉ POUR SÛRETÉ DE DETTES OU D'ENGAGEMENTS DE TIERS	9149	.....
Dont		
Effets de commerce en circulation endossés par la société	9150	.....
GARANTIES RÉELLES		
Garanties réelles constituées ou irrévocablement promises par la société sur ses actifs propres pour sûreté de dettes et engagements de la société		
Hypothèques		
Valeur comptable des immeubles grevés	91611	.....
Montant de l'inscription	91621	.....
Pour les mandats irrévocables d'hypothéquer, le montant pour lequel le mandataire est autorisé à prendre inscription en vertu du mandat	91631	.....
Gages sur fonds de commerce		
Le montant maximum à concurrence duquel la dette est garantie et qui fait l'objet de l'enregistrement	91711	.....
Pour les mandats irrévocables de mise en gage du fonds de commerce, le montant pour lequel le mandataire est autorisé à procéder à l'enregistrement en vertu du mandat	91721	.....
Gages sur d'autres actifs ou mandats irrévocables de mise en gage d'autres actifs		
La valeur comptable des actifs grevés	91811	.....
Le montant maximum à concurrence duquel la dette est garantie	91821	.....
Sûretés constituées ou irrévocablement promises sur actifs futurs		
Le montant des actifs en cause	91911	.....
Le montant maximum à concurrence duquel la dette est garantie	91921	.....
Privilège du vendeur		
La valeur comptable du bien vendu	92011	.....
Le montant du prix non payé	92021	.....

Garanties réelles constituées ou irrévocablement promises par la société sur ses actifs propres pour sûreté de dettes et engagements de tiers

Hypothèques

Valeur comptable des immeubles grevés
 Montant de l'inscription
 Pour les mandats irrévocables d'hypothéquer, le montant pour lequel le mandataire est autorisé à prendre inscription en vertu du mandat

Gages sur fonds de commerce

Le montant maximum à concurrence duquel la dette est garantie et qui fait l'objet de l'enregistrement
 Pour les mandats irrévocables de mise en gage du fonds de commerce, le montant pour lequel le mandataire est autorisé à procéder à l'enregistrement en vertu du mandat

Gages sur d'autres actifs ou mandats irrévocables de mise en gage d'autres actifs

La valeur comptable des actifs grevés
 Le montant maximum à concurrence duquel la dette est garantie

Sûretés constituées ou irrévocablement promises sur actifs futurs

Le montant des actifs en cause
 Le montant maximum à concurrence duquel la dette est garantie

Privilège du vendeur

La valeur comptable du bien vendu
 Le montant du prix non payé

Codes	Exercice
91612
91622
91632
91712
91722
91812
91822
91912
91922
92012
92022

Exercice
.....
.....
.....
.....

MONTANT, NATURE ET FORME DES LITIGES ET AUTRES ENGAGEMENTS IMPORTANTS

.....

RÉGIMES COMPLÉMENTAIRES DE PENSION DE RETRAITE OU DE SURVIE INSTAURÉS AU PROFIT DU PERSONNEL OU DES DIRIGEANTS

Description succincte

Mesures prises pour en couvrir la charge

N° 0477.468.939

A-asbl 6.5

PENSIONS DONT LE SERVICE INCOMBE À LA SOCIÉTÉ ELLE-MÊME

Montant estimé des engagements résultant de prestations déjà effectuées

Codes	Exercice
9220

Bases et méthodes de cette estimation

NATURE ET OBJECTIF COMMERCIAL DES OPÉRATIONS NON INSCRITES AU BILAN

A condition que les risques ou les avantages découlant de ces opérations soient significatifs et dans la mesure où la divulgation des risques ou avantages soit nécessaire pour l'appréciation de la situation financière de l'association ou de la fondation

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.....
.....

Exercice
.....
.....
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.....

AUTRES DROITS ET ENGAGEMENTS HORS BILAN (DONT CEUX NON SUSCEPTIBLES D'ÊTRE QUANTIFIÉS)

.....
.....
.....
.....

Exercice
.....
.....
.....
.....

RELATIONS AVEC LES ENTREPRISES LIÉES, LES ENTREPRISES ASSOCIÉES, LES ADMINISTRATEURS, GÉRANTS ET COMMISSAIRES

	Codes	Exercice
ENTREPRISES LIÉES		
Garanties constituées en leur faveur	9294	.....
Autres engagements significatifs souscrits en leur faveur	9295	.....
LES ADMINISTRATEURS ET GÉRANTS, LES PERSONNES PHYSIQUES OU MORALES QUI CONTRÔLENT DIRECTEMENT OU INDIRECTEMENT LA SOCIÉTÉ SANS ÊTRE LIÉES À CELLE-CI OU LES AUTRES ENTREPRISES CONTRÔLÉES DIRECTEMENT OU INDIRECTEMENT PAR CES PERSONNES		
Créances sur les personnes précitées	9500	.....
Conditions principales des créances, taux d'intérêt, durée, montants éventuellement remboursés, annulés ou auxquels il a été renoncé		
.....		
.....		
Garanties constituées en leur faveur	9501	.....
Autres engagements significatifs souscrits en leur faveur	9502	.....

	Exercice
LE(S) COMMISSAIRE(S) ET LES PERSONNES AVEC LESQUELLES IL EST LIÉ (ILS SONT LIÉS)	
.....
.....
.....
.....

	Exercice
TRANSACTIONS AVEC DES PARTIES LIÉES EFFECTUÉES DANS DES CONDITIONS AUTRES QUE CELLES DU MARCHÉ	
Les sociétés anonymes mentionnent les transactions qui sont contractées directement ou indirectement entre la société et ses principaux actionnaires et entre la société et les membres des organes de direction, de surveillance ou d'administration	
.....
.....
.....
.....

BILAN SOCIAL

Numéros des commissions paritaires dont dépend la société:

337

TRAVAILLEURS POUR LESQUELS LA SOCIÉTÉ A INTRODUIT UNE DÉCLARATION DIMONA OU QUI SONT INSCRITS AU REGISTRE GÉNÉRAL DU PERSONNEL

Codes	1. Temps plein	2. Temps partiel	3. Total (T) ou total en équivalents temps plein (ETP)	3P. Total (T) ou total en équivalents temps plein (ETP)
	(exercice)	(exercice)	(exercice)	(exercice précédent)
Au cours de l'exercice et de l'exercice précédent				
Nombre moyen de travailleurs	100 3,2	.....	3,2 (ETP)	4,0 (ETP)
Nombre d'heures effectivement prestées ...	101 5.714	.....	5.714 (T)	7.916 (T)
Frais de personnel	102 297.808,16	.....	297.808,16 (T)	381.849,88 (T)

Codes	1. Temps plein	2. Temps partiel	3. Total en équivalents temps plein
A la date de clôture de l'exercice			
Nombre de travailleurs	105 3	.....	3,0
Par type de contrat de travail			
Contrat à durée indéterminée	110 3	.....	3,0
Contrat à durée déterminée	111	.....	.....
Contrat pour l'exécution d'un travail nettement défini	112	.....	.....
Contrat de remplacement	113	.....	.....
Par sexe et niveau d'études			
Hommes	120	.....	.....
de niveau primaire	1200	.....	.....
de niveau secondaire	1201	.....	.....
de niveau supérieur non universitaire	1202	.....	.....
de niveau universitaire	1203	.....	.....
Femmes	121 3	.....	3,0
de niveau primaire	1210	.....	.....
de niveau secondaire	1211	.....	.....
de niveau supérieur non universitaire	1212	.....	.....
de niveau universitaire	1213 3	.....	3,0
Par catégorie professionnelle			
Personnel de direction	130	.....	.....
Employés	134 3	.....	3,0
Ouvriers	132	.....	.....
Autres	133	.....	.....

TABLEAU DES MOUVEMENTS DU PERSONNEL AU COURS DE L'EXERCICE

ENTRÉES

Nombre de travailleurs pour lesquels la société a introduit une déclaration DIMONA ou qui ont été inscrits au registre général du personnel au cours de l'exercice

SORTIES

Nombre de travailleurs dont la date de fin de contrat a été inscrite dans une déclaration DIMONA ou au registre général du personnel au cours de l'exercice

Codes	1. Temps plein	2. Temps partiel	3. Total en équivalents temps plein
205	.....	.....	.....
305	2	.....	2,0

RENSEIGNEMENTS SUR LES FORMATIONS POUR LES TRAVAILLEURS AU COURS DE L'EXERCICE

Initiatives en matière de formation professionnelle continue à caractère formel à charge de l'employeur

Nombre de travailleurs concernés

Nombre d'heures de formation suivies

Coût net pour la société

 dont coût brut directement lié aux formations

 dont cotisations payées et versements à des fonds collectifs

 dont subventions et autres avantages financiers reçus (à déduire)

Initiatives en matière de formation professionnelle continue à caractère moins formel ou informel à charge de l'employeur

Nombre de travailleurs concernés

Nombre d'heures de formation suivies

Coût net pour la société

Initiatives en matière de formation professionnelle initiale à charge de l'employeur

Nombre de travailleurs concernés

Nombre d'heures de formation suivies

Coût net pour la société

Codes	Hommes	Codes	Femmes
5801	5811	.....
5802	5812	.....
5803	5813	.....
58031	58131	.....
58032	58132	.....
58033	58133	.....
5821	5831	.....
5822	5832	.....
5823	5833	.....
5841	5851	.....
5842	5852	.....
5843	5853	.....

RÈGLES D'ÉVALUATION

Coimbra Group A.S.B.L.
Règles d'évaluation

1. GÉNÉRALITÉS

Les règles d'évaluation sont arrêtées conformément aux dispositions prévues par l'A.R. du 29 avril 2019 relatifs aux obligations comptables de certaines A.S.B.L.

Les règles d'évaluation doivent être identiques d'un exercice à l'autre. Elles ne peuvent être modifiées que dans des cas exceptionnels tels que prévus à l'article 3.8 de l'A.R. du 29 avril 2019.

Chaque élément du patrimoine doit faire l'objet d'une évaluation distincte.

Les évaluations doivent répondre aux critères de prudence, de sincérité et de bonne foi.

Il doit être tenu compte de tous les risques prévisibles, des pertes éventuelles et des dépréciations qui ont pris naissance au cours de l'exercice auquel les comptes annuels se rapportent ou au cours d'exercices antérieurs même si ces risques, pertes ou dépréciations ne sont connus qu'entre la date de clôture des comptes annuels et la date à laquelle ils sont arrêtés par l'organe d'administration.

Il doit être tenu compte des charges et des produits afférents à l'exercice ou à des exercices antérieurs sans considération de la date de paiement ou d'encaissement de ces charges et produits, sauf si l'encaissement effectif de ces produits est incertain.

Pour les rubriques du bilan qui ne font pas l'objet de règle particulières, il est renvoyé aux règles prévues par l'A.R. du 29 avril 2019.

2. RÈGLES PARTICULIÈRES

Immobilisation incorporelles et corporelles (appartenant à l'ASBL en pleine propriété)

Les immobilisations corporelles et incorporelles sont actées à l'actif à leur valeur d'acquisition.

Toutefois, tout achat inférieur ou égal à €250,00 est pris directement en charges.

Lorsque leur utilisation est limitée dans le temps, elles font l'objet d'amortissements calculés selon un plan.

Taux d'amortissements :

- Mobilier de bureau : 5-10 ans
- Matériel roulant (acquis à l'état neuf) : 5 ans
- Matériel informatique : 3 ans
- Immobilisation incorporelle : 3 ans

Immobilisations financières

Les cautions versées en numéraires sont comptabilisées à leurs valeurs nominales. Elles font l'objet de réduction de valeur si leur remboursement est incertain ou compromis.

Créances à court terme

Les créances à court terme (inférieures à un an) sont actées sous les actifs circulants. Elles sont actées à leur valeur nominale et font l'objet de réductions de valeur si leur remboursement est incertain ou compromis.

Les subsides sont actés en créance dès le moment où leur octroi a fait l'objet d'une notification écrite irrévocable par l'autorité subsidiante, et ce, indépendamment de leur encaissement effectif. Dans le cadre des décomptes de clôture des subsides, les sommes à recevoir de l'autorité subsidiante ou des partenaires sont actées à leur valeur nominale sous les créances diverses.

Placement de trésorerie et valeurs disponibles

Les placements de trésorerie et les valeurs disponibles sont actés à leur valeur d'acquisition.

Ils font l'objet de réductions de valeur lorsque leur valeur de réalisation à la date de clôture de l'exercice est inférieure à leur valeur d'acquisition. Ces réductions de valeur doivent être reprises dès qu'elles ne sont plus justifiées.

Compte de régularisation de l'actif

Les charges à reporter sont les proratas de charges exposées au cours de l'exercice ou d'un exercice antérieur mais qui sont à rattacher à un ou plusieurs exercices ultérieurs.

Les produits acquis sont les proratas de produits qui n'échoient qu'au cours d'un exercice ultérieur mais qui se rattachent à l'exercice ou à un exercice écoulé.

Provisions pour risques et charges

Des provisions pour risques et charges sont actées pour couvrir des pertes ou des charges nettement circonscrites quant à leur nature, mais qui, à la date de clôture, sont probables ou certaines mais indéterminées quant à leur montant. Elles ne peuvent avoir pour objet de corriger la valeur d'un actif. Elles sont individualisées en fonction des risques ou charges de même nature qu'elles sont appelées à couvrir. Elles ne peuvent dépendre du résultat.

Dans des cas identifiés, circonscrits et dûment justifiés par un risque particulier, une provision doit être constituée en vue de couvrir un risque de perte ou de charge relative à des frais qui pourraient être considérés par l'autorité subsidiante comme non éligibles, pour quelque raison que ce soit.

Dettes à court terme

Les dettes à court terme sont actées au passif à leur valeur nominale.

Dans le cadre des décomptes de clôture des subsides, les sommes à rembourser à l'autorité subsidiante ou aux partenaires sont actées à leur valeur nominale sous les dettes diverses.

Compte de régularisation du passif

Les charges à imputer sont les proratas de charges qui n'échoiront qu'au cours d'un exercice ultérieur mais qui sont à rattacher à un exercice écoulé.

Les produits à reporter sont les proratas de produits perçus au cours de l'exercice antérieur qui sont à rattacher à un exercice ultérieur.

Les parties non consommées, à la date de clôture, d'un subside doivent être actées en produits à reporter de façon à ne reconnaître en résultats que la partie du subside acquise et justifiées par des charges éligibles.

3. AUTRES RÈGLES PARTICULIÈRES

Dès que l'A.S.B.L. reçoit « l'assessment » contenant le décompte final approuvé par l'ensemble des parties (autorités subsidiantes, partenaires,...), ce décompte doit être traduit dans les comptes. Cela implique que le montant final du subside octroyé soit reconnu en résultats et que, en contrepartie, les sommes à rembourser ou à recevoir soient actées en dettes ou en créances vis-à-vis des tiers.

L'impact des projets non finalisés doit être neutralisé sur le compte de résultats de l'année.

Une provision doit être enregistrée en cas de prévision de projet déficitaire (suite à l'analyse des produits et charges du projet sur toute sa durée).

Ludovic Thilly
Président de l'organe d'administration

N°	0477.468.939
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A-asbl 7

<p>AUTRES DOCUMENTS À DÉPOSER EN VERTU DU CODE DES SOCIÉTÉS ET DES ASSOCIATIONS</p>
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RAPPORT DE GESTION

RAPPORT DES COMMISSAIRES



Coimbra Group Membership Fee 2025

It had been agreed at the 2006 General Assembly that the subscription rate should be increased annually by the European average rate of inflation. According to this formula, the calculations for 2025 would establish the membership fee at €15,720 (as compared to €15,971 in 2024).

However in 2020, the Administrative and Financial Committee recommended that the annual fee level shall under no circumstances be established below the amount of the annual membership in the previous year, given that the operational costs for the Coimbra Group Office will increase regardless of a negative inflation rate.

The Administrative and Financial Committee follows that precedent and recommends maintaining a **€15,971** fee for 2025.

COIMBRA GROUP

Administrative and Financial Committee (AFC)

Draft Minutes of the AFC Meeting

Video Conference, 4 April 2024

10 am -12.00 pm

Administrative and Financial Committee

Dr Markus Gelhoet, outgoing chair, Göttingen
Ms Patricia Pardon, incoming chair, KU Leuven
Ms Ana Coimbra, Coimbra
Prof Danny Donoghue, CG Treasurer, Durham
Ms Jessica Levyne, Louvain-la-Neuve

Executive Board

Prof Ludovic Thilly, Chair, Poitiers (until 11:00h)

CG Office

Ms Emmanuelle Gardan, Director
Mr Jean-Guy Didier, Auditor

Apologies

Prof Geraint Howells, Galway

Agenda

1. Welcome words from AFC Chair, EB Chair and Treasurer
2. Message from the CG Office
3. Analysis of the 2023 accounts
4. Revision of the 2024 budget proposal
5. Proposals for the 2025 budget
6. Membership Fee 2025
7. Any other business

Ad 1. Welcome words from AFC Chair, EB Chair and Treasurer

Prof Ludovic Thilly welcomed the AFC members on behalf of the Executive Board (EB).

The outgoing Chair, Mr Markus Gelhoet, welcomed the members of the Administrative and Financial Committee (AFC), including the CG's Treasurer, Prof Danny Donoghue, the EB Chair, Prof Ludovic Thilly, the auditor, Mr Jean-Guy Didier, as well as the Office Director, Ms Emmanuelle Gardan. As there are two new members appointed to the AFC all participants introduce themselves briefly.

Markus Gelhoet then explains his status as outgoing AFC Chair. As the University of Göttingen decided to leave the Coimbra Group with effect at the end of this year, his membership of the AFC will also end at that time. The EB and the University of Göttingen then agreed that he would still chair today's meeting for agenda item 3 (Analysis of the 2023 accounts) in order to ensure the smoothest possible transition in the AFC. Furthermore, the EB appointed Patricia Pardon as incoming AFC Chair. She will then take over and continue the meeting.

On behalf of the EB, Prof Thilly thanked Markus Gelhoet warmly for his cooperation and excellent support over the past few years. He also welcomed Patricia Pardon as the new Chair of the AFC and thanked her warmly for her willingness to take on this role.

In conclusion, Markus Gelhoet outlined the functions of the Committee: the AFC continues to be an audit and budget advisory and evaluation committee in relation to the finances of the CG Office, and an audit committee for the Coimbra Group (CG) as a Belgian not-for-profit organisation (asbl/vzw). The Committee proposes its conclusions and recommendations to the Executive Board after a thorough analysis of accounts and budget proposals assessed by an independent auditor.

Ad 2. Message from the CG Office

The Chair gave the floor to Prof Thilly who outlined the developments over the past year, and the changes expected in the present financial year:

- The University of Göttingen will withdraw at the end of the year. Until then, the University still has its membership rights and the membership fee for 2024 has already been transferred by the University. The reasons for the withdrawal are not due to a lack of trust or added value. Rather, the University wanted to concentrate its memberships to a small number of networks.
- The Coimbra Group has recently received several expressions of interest from universities for future membership. The EB and Rectors' Advisory Group have devised a roadmap and will discuss this further in the next months.
- Prof Thilly's second term as EB Chair ends in June 2024 and he intends to stand for re-election to the EB at the General Assembly. If elected, he would also run again for the position of Chairman.
- The EB issued for the first time in the history of the Group an open call for expression of interest to join the AFC, which was very successful. The EB appointed two new AFC members, Ana Coimbra from the University of Coimbra and Geraint Howells from the University of Galway (who could not make it to the meeting due to prior commitments).
- The statutory votes of the General Assembly were switched to an electronic system last year. It has significantly streamlined the process. The feedback from members was positive. It will be repeated in 2024.
- In preparation for the General Assembly on 6 June in Turku, an online meeting with the voters appointed by each member university will take place on May 23 to present and explain the content of the resolutions submitted to the vote and the election process, and to answer questions from members. Patricia Pardon and Markus Gelhoet will be present at this meeting to answer any questions about today's meeting.

- The EB assesses the Group's financial situation as solid. Personnel expenses in 2023 were significantly lower than expected, as two CG Office employees resigned in March and their positions could not be filled immediately. As a result, the Group generated a significant surplus.
- The Coimbra Group will be celebrating its fortieth anniversary next year (2025). In this context, a number of activities and events are planned to emphasise the Group's impact.

Ad 3. Analysis of the 2023 accounts

(a) Accounts of the asbl/vzw and audit:

Mr Didier reported on the audit of the annual accounts of the Coimbra Group, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterized by a balanced sheet total of 676.749,86 Euro and a profit and loss account showing a profit for the year of 162.845,91 Euro.

Furthermore, he reported that the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the organisation's net equity and financial position as at 31 December 2023, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium. It is expected that the auditor would give his unqualified opinion.

(b) Office accounts 2023:

The Committee agreed that the Coimbra Group's financial policy remains unchanged: the costs of the CG Office should be met, as far as possible, by the subscriptions of member universities and to a lesser extent from the contributions made by overheads, staff and operational costs from approved projects, managed by or through the CG Office.

As an introduction to the analysis of the office accounts Ms Gardan reported briefly the 2023 accounts.

The AFC first discusses the income and expenditure figures. It notes that the overall figures are in line with the budget framework agreed for 2023. However, individual items show major deviations: personnel expenses are significantly lower than originally planned for the reasons already explained. Expenditure on strategic measures and communication was higher than planned. The Executive Board explains the reasons for these deviations in a transparent and comprehensible manner. The AFC notes that the Coimbra Group's financial policy was successfully implemented in 2023. Furthermore, the accounting situation was better than planned. As a result, a cash-based surplus of 162.845,91 Euro was achieved, which compares favourably to the estimated deficit of about -1,172.43 Euro. Additionally, the accumulated multi-year surplus increased to an amount of 626.710,22 Euro.

With regard to EU projects, the accounting methodology was agreed upon in previous years. The AFC asks about the application of this methodology in the current accounting year as this is not fully comprehensible for the individual projects. The question was clarified between members of the AFC, the auditor and Ms Gardan after this meeting. This point has no material impact on the annual financial statements presented or on the AFC's recommendation.

The auditor additionally reported that the Coimbra Group's resources for possible social liabilities are adequate. However, it would be possible to utilise the current annual result of 162.845,91 to explicitly foresee a provision for social risks in the accounts.

The EB has discussed this possibility intensively, as it considers itself obliged to be able to fulfil its obligations to the people it employs in the - currently unlikely - event of the Coimbra Group being dissolved. Against this background, the Board is asking the AFC for an opinion or statement.

The AFC believes that it is fundamentally expedient to consider and discuss the possibility of recognising provisions for social obligations on an ongoing basis in order to ensure that risks are appropriately covered should the need arise. At present, however, the AFC sees no need to recognise such a provision in the accounts. In agreement with the EB, the probability that the Coimbra Group will be dissolved in the near future and that this provision will be required is considered to be very low. The formation of this provision would deprive the Group of funds for operations and the planned strategic measures. However, they should rather be used in the near future to ensure the Group's ability to act and further increase its agility.

Taking into account all aspects of the 2023 annual financial statements discussed today, the AFC has decided in favour of the following recommendation:

The Committee recommended the CG Office statement on 2023 to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

Before leaving the meeting, Markus Gelhoet thanked all current and former members of the AFC, the EB and the CG Office for their extremely pleasant and appreciative cooperation.

Ad 4. Revision of the 2024 budget proposal

The AFC received a revision of the draft 2024 CG Office revenue and expenditures. The incoming AFC Chair highlighted some adjustments, mainly relating to the expenditures, made in the revised budget 2024 compared to the draft budget 2024.

- The revised operating costs remain in line with the drafted operating costs and amount to EUR 102k.
- The labour costs (EUR 433k) know a significant decrease (EUR 61k) compared to the drafted labour costs (EUR 494k). This is due to the departure of 2 members of GC office staff in March 2023 and the expected finalization of the recruitment process by the end of April 2024 followed by the start of 2 new members later on in 2024.
- The costs for strategic initiatives increase with EUR 7k exclusively due to the higher costs relating to communication strategy and activities in preparation of the Group's fortieth anniversary celebrations in 2025.
- The costs relating to projects are revised and amount to EUR 2,5k exclusively relating to expected costs in the new Erasmus+ project EUNIVERSE that started in October 2023.
- In total, the revised expenditures (EUR 619k) for 2024 decrease with EUR 51k compared to the drafted expenditures (EUR 670k).
- The income from members' subscriptions remains stable at a level of EUR 639k consisting of 40 members paying a membership fee of EUR 15.971. Until now 37 out of 40 members have effectively paid the 2024 fee.
- The income from projects is slightly increased with EUR 4,3k relating to justified income changes in different projects.
- Due to the favorable interest climate, some incoming bank interests are budgeted.

As a result from the above mentioned variations in expenditures and revenues:

- The revised result of 2024 is estimated to be EUR 36k positive. This result can be added to the accumulated reserve which will amount to EUR 657k at the beginning of 2025.
- No use of accumulated surplus (EUR 20k in the draft budget) is needed for 2024.

On request of the AFC Chair, the policy relating to the participation of the CG in (future) EU projects was explained by Ms Gardan. At present 1 proposal in which CG participated as a full partner is still pending for approval (expected June 24) and consequently related income and expenditures are not included in the revised budget 2024. Furthermore, CG is more and more requested to involve as Associated Partner in EU projects only, given the new rules in place under the Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027.

The AFC agreed that the revised budget estimates for 2024 are fair, transparent and prudent. These revised estimates take into account the Coimbra Group's financial policy since the operating and labour costs are fully covered by the revenues from the membership subscriptions (ratio of 83,80%).

The Committee agreed to recommend the revised estimates 2024 to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

Ad 5. Proposal for the 2025 budget

The draft estimate of income and expenditures for the year 2025 was made based on 4 possible scenarios with respect to revenues depending on a varying number of future members (from 39 CG members in total to 42 CG members in total) taking into account the intention of the Executive Board not only to deepen the existing cooperation but also to expand it (see also 2nd paragraph below). As a result, income from membership subscriptions varies from minimum EUR 623k (scenario IV - 39 members - current status after withdrawal of Göttingen and removal of St Petersburg's membership) to maximum EUR 671k (scenario I - 42 members). In all 4 scenarios expenditures are budgeted at the same level (EUR 711k) resulting in a budgetary deficit varying from EUR 75k (scenario IV) to EUR 27k (scenario I) and a decrease in accumulated profit to EUR 623k (scenario IV) or EUR 671k (scenario I) The ratio (operating and labour costs to members' subscriptions) remains healthy in all 4 scenarios (94% in scenario IV to 87% in scenario I) and leaves some margin to finance the cost of strategic initiatives.

The 2025 budget plan is fair and transparent. Like in the 2024 budget, contingencies for operating cost and labour cost increases (total of EUR 10k) are taken into account in the 2025 draft budget. The 2025 expenditures are influenced by higher personnel costs (EUR 478k in total) due to the full year employment of all available positions within the Coimbra Group office (5 FTPs). Compared to the revised 2024 budget, the 2025 budget for strategic initiatives has been substantially increased (+EUR 41,5k) relating to both communication strategy and activities (+EUR 11,5k – mainly for communication tools) and to events (+ EUR 30k) for the celebration of the 40th anniversary. Operating costs increase with almost EUR 6k because of estimated higher rent and insurance costs for the CG office and increased meeting and travel costs. Project costs remain stable (EUR 2,5k) whereas project income drops with EUR 3,6k as only 1 project (EUNIVERSE) is still running in 2025.

The CG treasurer, Prof Donoghue, explained to the AFC the EB 's strategy, as well as the initial recommendations, with respect to the onboarding of new members. The AFC understood that the search for new members has triggered a strategic review of the Group's ambition and identity to ensure

a broad representation of universities across Europe. The EB and Rectors' Advisory Group are reflecting on well-defined criteria taking into account e.g. student numbers and citations at country level, profile of research activities, CG current geographical spread, etc. There is a list of universities who have approached the CG for accession already, but a more strategic and proactive approach was adopted. Besides that, the growth of the CG may not hamper the current efficiency and effectiveness of working. By 2026 the Executive Board's recommendation is to include 3 new members (2 replacing Göttingen and St Petersburg, 1 extra member). For 2025 no explicit recommendation is made but 1 or 2 new members would be advisable.

Taking into account the above financial and non-financial considerations the AFC discussed the different scenarios presented and concluded that scenario IV with 39 members puts too much pressure on the accumulated profit and includes unacceptable financial risks in the longer term. A 2-way move whereby 1 extra member is added in 2025, and 2 or 3 extra members by 2026 would be advisable.

The Committee agreed to recommend the draft 2025 budget with (minimum) 40 members (scenario III) as a basis for the future planning of the Coimbra Group activities.

Ad 6. Membership fee 2025

The AFC discussed the 2 options below with respect to the level of the membership fee for the year 2025.

It had been agreed at the 2006 General Assembly that the subscription rate should be increased annually by the European average rate of inflation. According to this formula, the calculations for 2025 should be as follows:

1) Membership fee paid in 2024: €15,971.00

2) Based on the definitive inflation rate 2023 in the euro area (2,9%), the final 2024 figure for calculation of the 2025 membership fee is: €14,861 (fee paid in 2023) + 2.9% (inflation rate 2023) = €15,291.969

3) The 2025 fee estimate: €15,291.969 + 2,8% (estimated 2024 inflation rate) = €15,720.14 (or €15,720), actual fee to be paid.

However, in 2020 the AFC recommended that the annual fee level shall under no circumstances be established below the amount of the annual membership in the previous year, given that the operational costs for the Coimbra Group Office will increase regardless of a negative inflation rate.

The Administrative and Financial Committee followed the 2020 recommendation maintaining a €15,971 fee for 2025.

Ad 7. Any other business

Taking into account the current favourable interest climate as well as the cash position (EUR 670k) as per December 31, 2023, the question was raised about the alternatives (other than a current and/or savings account) to invest the cash available at the CG to compensate the impact of inflation. In that

respect the AFC noted that several considerations need to be taken into account: safety and duration of investments, proportion of money that can be invested (“blocked”), possibilities to reinvest the income generated in favour of the members, legal concerns taking into account the not-for-profit status of the CG, tax aspects, etc.

Ms Gardan explained that she already had a first consultation round with the Belfius bank following previous discussions in the EB.

As financial management is a very specialised matter, some AFC members agreed to contact the treasury specialists within their university and send useful feedback to Ms Gardan in order to further elaborate on this topic and report to the Executive Board.

Dr Markus Gelhoet

University of Göttingen

22 April 2024

Ms Patricia Pardon

KU Leuven

22 April 2024

Supporting documents

- + Minutes AFC Meeting 20 April 2023
- + 2020-2025 Budgets and Accounts
- + Draft Summary balance sheet EN 2023 / Bilan resume FR 2023
- + BILAN 2023
- + Draft Internal Balance 2023
- + Draft Mapping Accrued vs Accounts 2023
- + Membership Fee 2025
- + EU Project financial overview 2017 – 2025
- + Note on EU-funded Projects
- + Note on Budget and Accounts

Annex 2

Application Documents Executive Board candidates

- **Annexes 2.1. 1-3** **Professor Eva Voldřichová Beránková, Charles University**
 - Annex 2.1.1 Eva Voldřichová Motivation letter
 - Annex 2.1.2 Eva Voldřichová CV
 - Annex 2.1.3 Eva Voldřichová Endorsement letter

- **Annexes 2.2. 1-3** **Professor Ludovic Thilly, University of Poitiers**
 - Annex 2.2.1 Ludovic Thilly Motivation letter
 - Annex 2.2.2 Ludovic Thilly CV
 - Annex 2.2.3 Ludovic Thilly Endorsement letter



CHARLES
UNIVERSITY

Vice-Rector for International Affairs

Prague, 18th April 2024

Dear Rectors of the Coimbra Group,

I would like to express my interest in joining the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group.

Charles University became a member of the Coimbra Group in 1991 and currently has representatives in all twelve working groups within this association. Of those in which our researchers work most actively, I would like to mention in particular "Academic Exchange and Mobility", "Equality and Diversity", "Heritage" or "Latin America". Our institution greatly values the opportunity to exchange experiences with other international partners and recognizes the very important role that the Coimbra Group plays in European research and education policy.

Although I only took up the position of Vice-Rector for International Affairs a year ago, I have been interested in academic cooperation, EU academic policy and cultural diplomacy since my studies at the Sorbonne in Paris and my work as a lecturer at the École Normale Supérieure, where I was in charge of coordinating political debates and cultural events with Central and Eastern European countries. As the head of the Department of French within the Institute of Romance Studies at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, I was responsible not only for research and teaching, but also for cooperation with embassies of Francophone countries and the organization of internships of Czech students in European institutions. In 2014-2017 I held the position of Vice Dean for International Affairs at the same Faculty of Arts, where I managed to initiate extensive cooperation with European and American universities, which resulted in the successful submission of several international research projects.

Since March 2023, when I took up the position of Vice-Rector for International Affairs at Charles University, I have been specifically involved (beyond the usual agenda) in:

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110 00 Prague 1
Phone: (+420) 224 491 650
E-mail: eva.voldrichova.berankova@ruk.cuni.cz
<http://www.cuni.cz>



CHARLES UNIVERSITY

- Representation of Charles University in international university associations
- Diplomatic activities, participation in foreign missions of the Czech government and parliament
- Relations with embassies and cultural institutes of foreign countries
- Strategic Partnerships of Charles University
- External public relations strategy, participation of Charles University at international education fairs
- All Erasmus+ programmes and international mobility support systems
- Support for international students and academics, language courses, intercultural trainings
- Promotion of Multilingualism and Language Policy Strategy at Charles University
- Internationalisation at home
- Formulation of a comprehensive *Internationalisation Strategy of Charles University for the period 2025-2030*
- Establishment of the Supply Chain Resilience Centre in collaboration with the Government of Taiwan
- Expansion and consolidation of the Eastern Partnership University Cluster
- Coordination of assistance to Ukrainian academics and students after the Russian invasion, humanitarian aid to Belarusian dissent

I hope that this experience of mine could prove useful for working within the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group. It would be a great honour for me to participate in the functioning of such a prestigious institution.

If elected, I would like to concentrate on further deepening the cooperation between member universities and the Executive Board; secure the synergy between research and education; develop mutual cooperation between the Coimbra Group and other networks; promote the coordination of European University Alliances' experiences formed by the members of Coimbra Group.

Thank you for your consideration, and do not hesitate to contact me in case you have any questions.

Prof. PhDr. Eva Voldřichová Beránková, Ph.D.
Vice Rector for International Affairs
Charles University
eva.voldrichova.berankova@ruk.cuni.cz

prof. PhDr. Eva
Voldřichová -
Beránková,
Ph.D.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Eva Voldřichová Beránková



Personal details:

Date of birth: 13 March 1975
Nationality: Czech
Marital status: married, 1 child
Address: Levandulová 35, 31200 Plzeň, eva.voldrichova.berankova@ruk.cuni.cz

Education:

- 2022, Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Professor of Romance Literatures
- 2013, Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Associate Professor of French Philology
- 1998-2002, Sorbonne University + Charles University, Ph.D. programme in Romance and Slavonic literatures (cotutelle)
- 1993–1998, Charles University, Faculty of Arts, degree programme: Philology – French

Employment:

- 2023–present, Charles University, Vice-Rector for International Affairs
- 2014–2017, Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Vice-Dean for International Relations
- 2020–present, Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Professor of French Philology
- 2002–2013, Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Institute of Romance Studies, lecturer, teaching assistant and then Associate Professor of French Philology
- 1998–2000, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, lecturer of Czech language and literature

University courses:

- French literature of the 19th and 20th centuries
- Literary criticism
- Francophone literatures (Quebec)
- European literature and cinema
- Gender studies
- Postcolonial theories
- Relations between literature and philosophy

Research projects:

- 2023-2027, European Regional Development Fund project *Beyond Security: Role of Conflict in Resilience-Building* (reg. no.: CZ.02.01.01/00/22_008/0004595)
- 2020-2022, *Centre and Periphery: Changes in the Postcolonial Situation of Romance-language Literatures in the Americas, Africa and Europe* (GA20-14919S)
- 2017-2018, *Rayonnement de la Francophonie* (ACTIF: Action pour l'innovation francophone, 2017-051278ULB)
- 2018-2023, *Creativity and adaptability as conditions for the success of Europe in an interrelated world*, Operational Programme Research, Development and Education (OP RDE).
- 2014-2017, *Attempting the Renaissance of the West: the Literary and Intellectual Climate at the Turn of the 20th Century* (Research project GA ČR 14-01821S)
- 2012-2016, *Modern Versions of the West. Thinking and Literature in the End of the 19th Century and the Beginning of the 20th Century* (Internal research project – Programme of research development at Charles University)
- 2007-2011: *Foundations of Modern World in the Mirror of Literature and Philosophy* (Research project MSM 0021620824)

Main agenda in the Vice-Rector's position:

- Representation of Charles University in international university associations
- Diplomatic activities, participation in foreign missions of the Czech government and parliament
- Relations with embassies and cultural institutes of foreign countries
- Strategic Partnerships of Charles University

- External public relations strategy, participation of Charles University at international education fairs
- All Erasmus+ programmes and international mobility support systems
- Support for international students and academics, language courses, intercultural trainings
- Promotion of Multilingualism and Language Policy Strategy at Charles University
- Internationalisation at home
- Formulation of a comprehensive *Internationalisation Strategy of Charles University for the period 2025-2030*
- Establishment of the Supply Chain Resilience Centre in collaboration with the Government of Taiwan
- Expansion and consolidation of the Eastern Partnership University Cluster
- Coordination of assistance to Ukrainian academics and students after the Russian invasion, humanitarian aid to Belarusian dissent

Selective bibliography – monographs and chapters in monographs

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ Eva. "Paris – Centrality as an Initiator of Deperipheralization". In: Kyloušek, Petr (ed.) *Centers and Peripheries in Romance Language Literatures in the Americas and Africa*, Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2024, ISBN: 978-90-04-69112-4, pp. 323-362.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ Eva. "Paradoxes of Self-Creation and Narrativity in the Symbolist Novel". In: KOLMAN Vojtěch – MATĚJČKOVÁ Tereza (eds.) *Perspectives on the Self. Reflexivity in the Humanities*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2022, ISBN : 978-3-11-069845-9, pp. 175-187.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ Eva. "A Negative Autopoietic Principle in French Interpretations of Hegel". In: KOLMAN Vojtěch – MURÁR Tomáš (eds.) *Devouring One's Own Tail. Autopoiesis in Perspective*. Prague: Karolinum, 2022, ISBN: 978-80-246-5131-6, pp. 173-190.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva « Centre ou périphérie ? Littérature québécoise entre américanisation, américanité et indianité ». *L'Empire : centre et périphéries*. Sous la direction de Lydia Kamenoff et Hortense de Vilaine. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2022. ISBN : 978-2-343-24788-5, pp. 125-144.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ Eva, "Animals as Monsters, Victims, and Models in the Age of Decadence", *Outside the Anthropological Machine. Crossing the Human-Animal Divide and Other Exit Strategies*, Edited by Chiara Mengozzi, New York and London, Routledge, 2021, ISBN 978-0-367-50444-1, pp. 184-199.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ Eva, « La trilogie 1984 d'Éric Plamondon : comment rédiger des épopées non fictionnelles à l'époque de Wikipédia », *Territoires de la non-fiction. Cartographie d'un genre émergent*. Textes édités et introduits par Alexandre Gefen, Leiden/Boston, Brill/Rodopi, 2020, ISBN 978-90-04-36319-9, ISSN 1380-7811, pp. 262-272.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ Eva, « Écrire contre l'oubli : les spécificités de la littérature yiddish de Montréal », *Langues choisies, langues sauvées. Poétiques de la résistance*, eds. Christine Meyer et Paula Prescod, Würzburg, Königshausen & Neumann, 2018, « Saarbrücker Beiträge zur Vergleichenden Literatur – und Kulturwissenschaft », ISBN 978-3-8260-6112-7, pp. 75-88.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva, GRAUOVÁ, Šárka, *Dusk and Dawn: Literature Between Two Centuries*, Praha, Karolinum, 2017, 509 p., ISBN 978-80-7308-704-3.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *Mille faces du même. Les arts en France*. éd. Marie Voždová. Olomouc: Université Palacký d'Olomouc, 2013, 183 p., ISBN 978-80-244-3525-1.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *Littérature fin de siècle*. éd. V. Svatoň et A. Housková. Prague: Faculté des Lettres, Université Charles de Prague, 2012, 212 p., ISBN: 978-80-7308-437-0.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *Faisons l'homme à notre image. Pygmalion, Golem et l'automate comme trois versions du mythe de la création artificielle*, Prague, Karolinum, 2012, 317 p., ISBN 978-80-246-2055-8.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *Nous-Eux-Moi: La quête de l'identité dans la littérature et le cinéma canadiens*, éd. Petr Kyloušek, Brno, Université Masaryk de Brno, 2009, 283 s., ISBN 978-80-210-5061-7.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *Littérature aux frontières de langues et cultures*. éd. V. Svatoň et A. Housková. Prague: Faculté des Lettres, Université Charles de Prague, 2009, 294 p., ISBN 978-80-7308-284-0.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *Précis de la littérature française de la 2^{nde} moitié du 20^e siècle*, Prague, Centre pédagogique, 2003, 111 p., ISBN 80-7020-130-4.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *Petite histoire de l'Université Charles*, Prague, Karolinum, 2002, 230 p., ISBN 80-246-0539-2.

VOLDŘICHOVÁ BERÁNKOVÁ, Eva. *La face cachée, dostoïevskienne, d'Albert Camus*, thèse pour l'obtention du grade de docteur de l'Université Paris IV – Sorbonne, Atelier national de reproduction des thèses, 2002, 424 p., ISBN 2-284-04141-8.



CHARLES UNIVERSITY

Rector

Chair
Executive Board
Coimbra Group

Prague, April 18, 2024

Dear Professor Ludovic Tilly,

It is with a great pleasure that I, as the Rector of Charles University,

Nominate

Professor Eva Voldřichová Beránková,
the Vice Rector of Charles University for International Affairs,
as a candidate for membership in the Coimbra Group Executive Board.

I guarantee Professor Voldřichová Beránková full support from Charles University to carry out the tasks and duties related to this membership. I have been working with the candidate for over a year now and she has excelled in all of her assigned academic, diplomatic and organizational tasks. That is why I am confident that she will be an asset to the Executive Board and will successfully continue the excellent work of her predecessor, Prof. Lenka Rovná.

Thank you for your consideration.

I am very much looking forward to our further cooperation.

Very best wishes

Prof. MUDr. Milena Králíčková, Ph.D.
Rector
Charles University

prof. MUDr. Milena
Králíčková, Ph.D.

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Poitiers, 2024, March 21st

Prof. Dr. Ludovic THILLY
15 rue de l'Hôtel Dieu
86034 Poitiers, France
ludovic.thilly@univ-poitiers.fr

To the Rectors of the Coimbra Group Universities
To the Colleagues of the Coimbra Group Universities

Subject: candidacy to the Executive Board

Dear Rectors,

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter, I am very happy and honoured to candidate to one of the vacant positions on the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group. Since June 2015, I am a member of the Coimbra Group Executive Board: I was elected Chair of the Executive Board in 2017 and re-elected in 2020.

During the past years, the European Higher Education and Research scenes have seen a lot of crucial discussions and events: the roll-out of new Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe programmes, the launch of Alliances of European Universities, the implementation of the specific Actions of the European Research Area Forum and more recently the start of preparation work for the post-2027 European budget (Multiannual Financial Framework, MFF) and the future successors of Erasmus+ and of Horizon Europe (FP10), with continued threats to the budgets of these crucial programmes for universities: at each steps, the Coimbra Group has been an active stakeholder, via its participation to expert groups and workshops organized by the Commission or via public papers and statements. This increased visibility has been possible thanks to the commitment of the Coimbra Group Office, the Working Groups and the Executive Board. I am personally very proud of this recognition, which is translated into a continuously increasing number of invitations received at the Coimbra Group Office to participate to important events for the future of European Higher Education and Research Areas. I am also very proud of the recruitment, in January 2020, of our excellent Office Director, Ms Emmanuelle Gardan: the Coimbra Group Office has continuously increased its support to the Coimbra Group ecosystem, incl. to the member universities.

With this candidacy to a third mandate to the Executive Board, my wish is to continue to amplify the recognition of the Coimbra Group as one of the major stakeholders on the Higher Education and Research scenes, within Europe but also at global level: this can be reached by further strengthening our cooperation with the European Commission and Parliament, but also by participating to global actions with the United Nations (e.g. via the UNSDGs), UNESCO and other global institutions. The year 2025 will be an excellent opportunity to renew the Coimbra Group objectives on the occasion of its 40th anniversary: I would be honoured to continue to serve this prestigious network in such a particular occasion!

I strongly believe that the Coimbra Group is an added value to our institutions but also to the global academic community: if I have the privilege to be re-elected as member of the Executive Board, I will continue to put my energy at the service of our community so we can remain actors of our future, while continuing to actively respond to Society's challenges.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Ludovic THILLY
University of Poitiers



Ludovic THILLY

Distinguished Full Professor at University of Poitiers
Executive Vice-Rector for EC2U Alliance and European Networks

Birth date: 07/10/1974

Researchgate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ludovic_Thilly

ORCID: 0000-0002-8603-5153

Scopus Author ID 6603791955

ResearcherID: C-6660-2014 (<http://www.researcherid.com/rid/C-6660-2014>)



1. Formation and diplomas

1992-1994: Preparatory school for “grandes écoles”, Lycée Montaigne, Bordeaux

1994-1997: Engineering diploma in Materials Physics at I.N.S.A. Toulouse

1996-1997: Master in Condensed Matter Physics, Paul Sabatier University, Toulouse

1997-2000: PhD thesis in Condensed Matter Physics at I.N.S.A. Toulouse

07/12/2009: Habilitation to Conduct Research, University of Poitiers

2. Career development

2000-2001: Teaching and research assistant, Ecole des Mines de Nancy

2001-2011: Associate Professor, University of Poitiers, Institut Pprime

2006: Invited Researcher (3 months) at Paul Scherrer Institut (Switzerland)

Since 01/09/2011: Full Professor at University of Poitiers, Institut Pprime

Since 01/09/2019: Distinguished Full Professor (Classe Exceptionnelle) at University of Poitiers, Institut Pprime

3. Administrative responsibilities

2002-2012: Responsible of 1st year Master in Materials Science, Physics Department, University of Poitiers

Since 2002: Member of experts commissions for recruitment (Poitiers and other institutions)

2004-2007: Deputy-Head of the Physics Department, University of Poitiers

2008-2011: Elected member at the laboratory board

2011-2013: Head of the "Physics of Defects and Plasticity" group (14 permanent scientists, 7 doctoral and post-doctoral fellows), Materials Physics and Mechanics Dept, Institut Pprime

2012-2016: Executive Vice-Rector for International Relations of University of Poitiers

2016-2020: Rector's Delegate for European Networks, University of Poitiers

Since July 2015: Member of the Coimbra Group Executive Board (appointed in 2015, elected in 2016)

Since June 2017: Elected Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board (re-elected in 2020)

Since November 2020: Coordinator General of the EC2U Alliance of European Universities (Alliance renewed in 2023 for 6 years), Coordinator of two E+ projects and one H2020 projects related to the EC2U Alliance

Since December 2020: Executive Vice-Rector for EC2U Alliance and European Networks

4. Scientific programmes

2007-2020: Principal Investigator (PI) of 4 French ANR programmes and 8 bilateral international programmes (FR-DE, FR-CH, FR-USA, FR-IN)

Active PI of the following programmes:

2020 to 2024: Research Programme (ANR): 3D Incipient Polycrystal Plasticity (3DiPolyPlast). Programme with Laboratoire MATEIS (INSA Lyon), Laboratoire LEM (ONERA, Châtillon), Centre des Matériaux (Mines ParisTech).

2021 to 2025: Research Programme (ANR): Nanocomposite copper/silver conductors for high magnetic field (SIGMA). Programme with LNCMI (Toulouse & Grenoble), Laboratoire CIRIMAT (Toulouse), Laboratoire ICB LERMPS (Belfort), I-Cube Research (Toulouse).

5. Doctoral supervision

11 PhD theses already defended and 2 PhD theses under progress

6. Scientific expertise

- Regular referee of 1st rank scientific journals (Acta Materialia, Journal of Applied Physics, Applied Physics Letters, Philosophical Magazine, Philosophical Magazine Letters, Nature Publishing Group).
- Scientific expert for international research agencies (ANR, Swiss National Science Foundation, City University of Hong Kong, CONICYT Chile)
- Referee for national and international PhD theses
- Guest Editor of the American Materials Research Society Bulletin: « Structural Metals at Extremes », edited by A. Misra and L. Thilly, MRS Bulletin, Vol. 35, No. 12 (December 2010)

7. Awards and prizes

Recipient of the Jean Rist Medal from the French Materials Research Society (SF2M), in 2009, for his work on the characterization of size effects in the plasticity mechanisms of nanocomposite metals with in-situ techniques under neutrons or high-energy x-rays.

In 2015, recipient of the Academic Palms by decree of the French Prime Minister, upon proposal by the Minister of the French National Education and Research.

8. Publications and communications

- Publications in peer-reviewed journals: 76
- Chapters in collective books: 4
- Vulgarization articles: 3
- Edition of collective books: 2

- Oral and Poster communications: >80 (since 2001)
- Invited Conferences and invited seminars: 52

Présidence - Cabinet

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Poitiers, le 9 avril 2024

Rector of the University of Poitiers

To

The Rectors of the Coimbra Group Universities

The Colleagues of the Coimbra Group

Universities

Dear Rectors,

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter, I confirm that I fully support the candidacy of Prof. Ludovic Thilly to the vacant position on the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group. If elected, Prof. Ludovic Thilly will receive full support from the University of Poitiers to carry out the tasks and duties related to the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group.

In 2020, I have appointed Prof. Thilly as Executive Vice-Rector in charge of the EC2U Alliance and European Networks. In 2017 and in 2020, Prof. Thilly has been elected Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board and he proved to be one of our best Ambassadors, increasing the activity and the visibility of the Coimbra Group. Prof. Thilly has been very active in defending our views at the European Commission and I am convinced that the energy he has demonstrated so far to reach his mission would continue to be a great added value to the Coimbra Group.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Virginie Laval

Rector of the University of Poitiers



Annex 3

Working Groups Work Plan Summaries

- **Annex 3.1 Academic Exchange and Mobility Working Group**
- **Annex 3.2 Doctoral Studies Working Group**
- **Annex 3.3 Education Innovation Working Group**
- **Annex 3.4 Equality and Diversity Working Group**
- **Annex 3.5 Employability Working Group**
- **Annex 3.6 Global Partnerships Working Group**
- **Annex 3.7 Heritage Working Group**
- **Annex 3.8 Latin America Working Group**
- **Annex 3.9 Life Sciences Working Group**
- **Annex 3.10 Research Support Officers Working Group**
- **Annex 3.11 Social Science and Humanities Working Group**
- **Annex 3.12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Working Group**

Annex 3.1 Academic Exchange and Mobility Working Group (AEM WG)

Working Group Focus

The AEM Working Group is concerned with staff and student mobility and international exchange with many issues to address, like increasing mobility numbers, more environmentally friendly mobility options, inclusive mobility, virtual exchange, and novel forms of mobility introduced by European University Alliances, difficult political situations, the planning and implementation of staff and student mobility calls for a collaborative, understanding, and creative approach from all involved institutions. While the WG adheres to national and EU policies, its members view them as a source of inspiration and use their efforts to try to introduce innovative approaches. Due to the variety of activities, the group also organises thematic subgroups to deal with specific topics.

The main tasks of the AEM are:

- to **increase academic exchanges** (students, scholars and administrative staff) amongst Coimbra Group universities;
- to **share information on best practices and challenges** in the daily work of academic institutions dealing with mobility of students and staff;
- to **develop joint projects** aimed at improving quality of mobility, encouraging amongst others sustainable behaviour as well as implementing new schemes and tools supporting mobility;
- to **advise the Coimbra Group Executive Board on possible actions** to be taken to influence the development of European educational programmes with mobility components, including through the production of policy documents or recommendations;
- to **strengthen civic engagement** and co-creation of good practices with a close collaboration with students associations (Erasmus Student Network (ESN) International and European Student Union (ESU)).

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- **Grow the SEN network** and the number of exchanges by working on:
 - Student exchange challenges.
 - New mobility formats, also virtual exchange.
 - Collaboration with other Coimbra Group WGs.
 - Mobility, Diversity and Inclusion.

- **Sustainable Mobility** – Greener Exchanges and BIP.
- Joint projects of AEM WG members **with students (ESN) and for Civic Engagement**.
- Involvement of International Relations Offices (IROs) into **European Universities Alliances**.

Recent highlights

- Participation as speakers in 3 sessions at the **2023 Erasmus Generation Meeting** organised by ESN in Bucharest in April 2023:
 - Session on the synergies between CG and ESN sections: Coimbra Group organised this session, with an introduction on how the ESN-CG collaboration started, followed by presentation of good practices from ESN local sections and CG Universities, and a discussion with the audience on future opportunities;
 - Session on student engagement in European Universities Alliances: a session presented and moderated by ESN, where CG presented the results from a short survey to the 8 Alliances with CG members;
 - Session on the implementation of E+ priorities: a session coordinated by ESN to discuss how to improve the implementation of Erasmus+ and its priorities from different perspectives, bringing together Universities, National Agencies, and stakeholders such as ACA and EAIE. CG presented what its members are doing to make mobility more inclusive, make the programme greener, or boost its international dimension - but also what would have to change to take these improvements to the next level.
- **Position Paper “Coimbra Group’s Recommendations for the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-27 Interim Evaluation”** published on 8 December 2023.
- Participation in the European Commission’s **DG EAC expert group on the implementation of Erasmus+ in Higher Education** in Brussels on 12 October 2023.

- Participation in the European Commission’s DG EAC **workshop on "Key issues for a possible successor programme of Erasmus+"** in Brussels on 20 March 2024.
- **AEM WG Meetings:**
 - Geneva: on 25-26 October 2023
 - Brussels: on 24-25 January 2024 + attendance of some AEM WG members to the ACA conference “What’s new in Brussels – Novelties 2024” as in the consecutive days.
 - AEM WG Subgroups’ online meetings (**Joint projects and Alliances and Student exchange challenges**): September 2023, January 2024, March 2024.
- Participation as speakers in 3 sessions at the **2024 Erasmus Generation Meeting** organised by ESN in Sevilla, 4-7 April 2024:
 - Ensure a smooth Collaboration with your Higher Education Institutions - The Case of the Coimbra Group
 - The future of Internationalisation in Higher Education
 - I want a Green Erasmus but Cannot Afford It!

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024 - 2025

- Participation as speakers in the session on “**Digitalising Erasmus+**” proposed by ACA at EAIE 2024 in Toulouse (17-20 September 2024).
- Continuation of the series of activities on CG **students and staff sustainable mobility**.
- Continuation of the cooperation and further initiatives in line **with ESN** – mobility of students among CG universities.
- Sharing **good practices between European Universities Alliances**.
- Giving more visibility to the **Coimbra Group Student Exchange Network (CG SEN)** by creating a dedicated webpage.

2025 - 2026

- Reports on CG SEN Student mobility.
- Continuation of the series of activities on CG students and staff sustainable mobility.
- Inter-Working Groups activities related to employability.
- Continuation of the cooperation and further initiatives in line with ESN – mobility of students among CG universities.
- Training the staff of CG universities.
- Sharing good practices between European Universities Alliances.

Annex 3.2 Doctoral Studies Working Group (DS WG)

Working Group Focus

Doctoral Studies constitute a key activity and major priority for multi-disciplinary research universities and represent one of the most important contributions of universities to the development of societies, through creative and collaborative approaches. Significant challenges and changes in higher education and substantial reforms of doctoral education and early research careers across Europe are central to the strategies of universities, and the DS WG fully assumes its important role in this process, fostering both rigorous doctoral training and meaningful doctoral research results.

The main remit of the Working Group is on a permanent exchange of information, sharing of best and innovative practice and joint activities of CG Universities and corresponding European University Alliances in the organization of doctoral programs and support of early research careers. We assist CG Universities in their aim of increasing participation in European research and education projects and offer our expertise as an excellent basis for possible contributions of the Coimbra Group to European policy-making relating to doctoral studies and early research careers.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- **International collaboration and mobility** in doctoral education and research, fostering initiatives for joint programmes and thematic doctoral networks.
- Participation in **research and education projects**.
- **Valorisation of European University Alliances experiences** in doctoral education.
- Permanent focus on **improving doctoral supervision, research communication, inter- and trans-disciplinary doctoral research, supporting academic and non-academic early research careers**.

Recent highlights

- Working Group online meetings in November 2023 and March 2024, to discuss priorities and future activities.
- Internal scoping survey on European University Alliances best practices, challenges and future intentions regarding doctoral education and research.
- Internal survey for a potential WG name change.
- Collection of a pool of subjects of interest for doctoral education and research.
- Contribution to European Commission's DG EAC Consultation "Reflections on the future of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions".

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024-2025

- Preparing the **Coimbra Group 3MT Competition Final**, Turku, 5 June 2024.
- **3 Working Group meetings** per year (1x in-person at the CG Annual Conference in Turku, June 2024; 1x open/depending on topic and possible side-events in autumn/winter 2024, 1x online in winter 2024/spring 2025).
- Preparing a **short report for the European University Alliances internal survey**, early 2025.
- Initiating an **exchange of information, priorities and finding common ground for future collaborations with Coimbra Group RSO, Employability, Equality and Diversity, and Education and Innovation Working Groups**.
- Collecting internal information on the subject of "**Data in shaping doctoral education**", for a better perspective of CG Universities' doctoral contexts.

2025-2026

- Supporting researchers' careers - "Round table discussion - After the PhD", with the participation of CG Universities early career researchers
- Potential WG name change to better reflect the focus of the DS WG (2025), following EB analysis and decision.
- Revisiting the Coimbra Group template for joint degrees / co-tutelles (end of 2025).
- Publication of updated results/report from the doctoral supervision work stream (end of 2026).
- Joint staff training week with the Coimbra Group Employability WG (was on hold due to the pandemic).
- Possible cooperation with the Coimbra Group Research Support Officers WG.

Annex 3.3 Education Innovation Working Group (EDU WG)

Working Group Focus

The EDU Working Group aims to share best practices in pedagogy across various domains, learning spaces, internationalization of the curriculum, and the integration of technology for teaching and academic pedagogy.

Regarding learning spaces, we exchange innovative approaches to classroom design, instructional delivery methods, and student engagement techniques. By sharing insights and experiences related to optimizing learning spaces, educators can enhance the effectiveness of their teaching practices and create environments conducive to student success.

For the internationalization of the curriculum, it involves infusing global perspectives, cultural competencies, and international experiences into the academic programme. We work also on blended mobility and internationalization at home as possibilities to expand the international aspect of studies.

More recently, our Working Group exchanges on technology enhanced teaching and learning by focusing on Learning Analytics and then on Artificial Intelligence (AI). More specifically, we focus ourselves on the development of generative AI in the different fields of higher education.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- **CG High Level Policy Seminar on Education Policy “AI in Higher Education”**, with a forum on Artificial Intelligence (21-22 November 2024, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași).
- Survey on the different aspects of **Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching**.
- Development of a web-resource on **Learning Spaces**.
- **Inter-Working Groups meetings on AI**.

Recent highlights

- **Walkabout Session at the 2022 Coimbra Group High-Level Seminar on Education Policy**, “From learning spaces to learning environments”, organized at the University of Uppsala. EDU WG members contributed to the event with examples of innovative teaching and learning activities

during the Walkabout Session which featured innovative use of learning spaces across the CG network. The WG also proposed the creation of a collegial network on learning environments.

- **2023 Webinar on “Hybrid and Virtual Learning Spaces”** at the [Open Education Week](#) hosted by the EDEN Network. The webinar built on the work conducted by EDU WG members on innovative learning spaces. Hybrid and virtual learning spaces are increasingly planned, designed and evaluated for their rich instructional potential, especially in the context of transnational teaching and learning initiatives, but also as an effect of post-pandemic developments in higher education institutions.
- **2023 EDU WG Seminar on Learning Analytics.** This seminar launched the work on Technology Enhanced Learning and Teaching through the scope of Learning Analytics. The strong increase of Learning Management Systems (LMS) usage in Higher Education due to the COVID crisis also increased the amount of data that are collected by those systems. With Learning Analytics, it is possible to analyse and to provide information to students and teachers on Intelligent Tutoring Systems for example. It also allows three levels of application, micro-level (ITS, individual engagement), meso-level (for the whole classroom and/or the whole university) and macro-level (for the whole educational system).

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024-2025

- Working Group Meeting at the Coimbra Group Annual Conference and General Assembly, June 2024, University of Turku
- CG High Level Policy Seminar on Education Policy - AI in Higher Education, 21-22 November 2024, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași.
- Working Group Meeting in Spring 2025.
- Continuing EDU WG Subgroups’ activities.
- “AI in the Coimbra Group Universities”: inter-WGs activities with online webinars and/or white papers on the topic.

2025-2026

- EDU WG meeting and thematic seminar, March/April 2025, University of Durham. Provisional topic: “Digital understanding, knowledge, and competence”.
- EDU WG meeting during CG Annual Conference and General Assembly, University of Bologna, June 2025.
- EDU WG online meeting in Fall 2025 to define the WG priorities for the next years.
- Continuation of the “AI in Coimbra Group Universities” inter-Working Groups activity.
- EDU Working Group meeting and inter-Working Groups meetings during the CG Annual Conference and General Assembly, University of Würzburg, June 2026.
- CG High Level Policy Seminar on Education Policy, Fall / Winter 2026, on a topic to be defined in connection with the Executive Board.

Annex 3.4 Equality and Diversity Working Group (ED WG)

Working Group Focus

ED WG aims at working with and providing support to Coimbra Group Universities in the areas of inclusive education and leadership, equality between men and women, diversity and intersectionality.

Equality and inclusion are of crucial importance in facilitating long-term improvement of the quality and excellence in research and innovation, and for that reason, the ED WG continues to focus its primary attention and activities in this direction. As global challenges and threats affect all humanity and answers must be increasingly sought together, equality and diversity become increasingly entangled concepts.

The ED WG's secondary focus is on promoting the incorporation of equality and diversity into pedagogical practices, collaborative research projects and institutional measures across the CG. In the next 3 years, the ED WG will continue to hold and improve regular WG meetings as an essential mode of sharing good practices and jointly thinking through the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) agenda in the CG institutions in international and EU contexts.

The main tasks of the ED WG in the upcoming three years are the following:

- to open up ED WG's debates and initiatives to all CG universities and the European University Alliances by sharing workshops, webinars and advocacy initiatives on urgent questions of **antiracist and antisexist education**, as well as collaborative work towards **non-discrimination in academia**;
- to embrace the challenge of facing and digging into the digital domain, looking at **algorithmic biases in Artificial Intelligence** in relations to questions of **ethics and social justice**;
- to continue serving as an EDI advisory body for the leaderships of our respective universities in the area of **diversity, inclusion and intersectional policies and practices**;
- to continue participating in the Commission's sub-group of experts on 'Inclusive Gender Equality in the European Research Area' (ERA Policy Agenda Action 5).

Priorities for 2024 - 2026

- Moving beyond Gender-Based Violence in academia and in society.
- Continuing work on/around Intersectionality, particularly as regards sexism and racism.
- Surveying how CG Universities, as scientific and pedagogical institutions, collect and use data to fight against discriminations.
- Jointly working with other CG Working Groups on the impacts of AI on academia.
- Consulting EC documents and policies about EDI dimensions in academia, research and innovation.

Recent highlights

- **“Racism at Coimbra Group Universities”**: joint open session developed in collaboration with the Heritage Working Group at the CG 2023 Annual Conference held at the University of Cologne. The session aimed to promote inter-university dialogue on the problems of intellectual heritage of colonialism and authoritarianism and the role of universities in shaping the identity practices in present-day Europe (June 2023-).
- **Intersectionality: How do we bridge the gap between the concept and its implementation?** ED WG online meeting with invited speakers (September 2023).
- **The violence of gender discrimination from an intersectional perspective: moving forward**: ED Working Group in-presence meeting in connection with the UN ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence’ annual international campaign (1 December 2023).

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024-2025

- **Practicing intersectionality and inclusive pedagogy**: continue ED WG’s investigation of the theme, especially concerning how we may bridge the gap between the concept and its implementation. We will collect data on the incorporation of diversity into pedagogical practices from an intersectional perspective across CG, particularly as regards antiracist and antisexist education (Spring-Summer 2024).

- On the question of **data collection and use in relation to equality/equity in academia**, we plan to organize two webinars with invited speakers, with follow-up actions by CG universities:

1. Webinar on Data collection and how it impacts on the archives of knowledge, inclusive gender equality, and other kinds of equal opportunity and affirmative action practices (Autumn 2024).

2. Webinar on the issue of Data, the Reform of Research Assessment and the slow progress of women in academic careers (Spring 2025).

2025-2026

- **Focus on the digital domain and social justice** through the organization of two webinars with invited speakers, with follow-up actions by CG universities, one in autumn 2025 and one in Spring 2026:

1. Webinar on **algorithmic bias in Artificial Intelligence** (Autumn 2025).

2. Webinar on **feminist digital justice**, with Anita Gurumurthy, Executive Director of ITforChange India, and activist for the rights of women in communication (Spring 2026).

- Collaboration with STEM WG on the topics of **EDI in digitalization and Artificial Intelligence**, participation in promotion and outreach of our collaborative efforts.

Annex 3.5 Employability Working Group (EMP WG)

Working Group Focus

We are living in fast-paced, dynamic, and uncertain times where economic, societal, and global needs are rapidly changing and where a highly skilled adaptable workforce is essential. A strong knowledge economy needs opportunities for lifelong skills development, which matches the skills needs of employers, both now and in the future. These skills allow for new value creation and problem solving addressing the challenges of our time. Continuous innovation and agility in higher education and research is required to futureproof the graduate pipeline with the skills that will allow society and industry to flourish and develop continuously.

Enhancing students' employability to meet the rapidly evolving needs of learners, society and industry is now a core part of a higher education institution's objectives. In this context, the collaboration and exchange of experiences within the Employability Working Group of the Coimbra Group (CG) aims to:

- Improve the **visibility and recognition of the value of careers and employability services** across CG universities;
- Increase **joint collaborative projects** on how career services are organised, deliver their services, and support their universities (**professionalisation of career services**);
- Prepare students for the 21st century **global labour market** and **lifelong learning** through the acquisition of **key future skills**.

We are an active Working Group which constantly seeks to identify new areas for conjoint work, to explore common issues and challenges across our universities, to share our learnings and drive innovation for the enhancement of our services.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- Increase awareness of the **value and relevance** of careers and employability services in CG universities through publications, workshops, and increased collaboration across the CG Working Groups.
- Develop a good practice framework for Careers Services working as **consultants to academics** (teachers, researchers, programme directors) and acting as **facilitators of academic-enterprise engagement**.

- Using our defined key future skills, explore how to **support students to develop these both within and outside the curriculum**, including tailoring to different student groups (e.g., students, doctoral students, international students, and students with the status of refugees).
- Explore how to improve **student engagement** with careers and employability services and ensure that our services remain relevant to students and meet their evolving needs.
- Increase our awareness and understanding of **micro-credentials** and the opportunities they present for careers, employability, and skills development within CG universities.
- Explore how AI can influence and enhance our service delivery and how we work.

Recent highlights

- Work has been ongoing over the past year on a **Situational Analysis Report** on employability and careers services across CG universities. This includes:
 - Results from a **benchmarking survey** of EMP WG members carried out during Summer 2023.
 - A detailed **SWOT overview** analysis based on inputs from EWG members aimed at identifying areas where we are doing well and the challenges we need to address.
 - Research overview and recommendations on **Skills for the Future of Work**.
- Working Group members attended and actively contributed to several recent **European Research Area Action 11 workshops** on “The Green Transition and Working life”, “The Digital Transition and Working Life”, and “Twin Transitions and Vulnerable Groups” (ERA4FutureWork).
- An EC representative from DG EAC with expertise in **Micro-credentials** presented at our EMP WG meeting in Brussels in December 2023.
- Fruitful discussions around key areas of focus for the coming years resulted in updates to our work plan to include AI, improving student engagement, and how to involve others in our service delivery.

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024-2025

- Final approval of our **Situational Analysis Report** on Employability and Careers Services across CG Universities at the June 2024 meeting in Turku.
- Focussed discussion session on **supporting international students** to be held in June 2024 in Turku.
- **Professional training workshop of Future Skills** planned at Trinity College Dublin in Oct/Nov 24 (with Coimbra Group funding). This will allow for the development of specific skills training sessions based on the future skills already identified (focus on sustainability, digital, and intercultural working) and the targeting of this training for different student groups.
- Development of a **good practice framework** for Career Services for working with academics and supporting academic-enterprise engagement, e.g., work-based learning.
- Prepare an **internal EMP WG report on micro-credentials and open badges** (definitions, differences, relevance for employability, etc) to create a shared understanding by end 2024.
- **Establishment of two new Subgroups and development of detailed plans to:**
 - improve student engagement with our services (**Student Engagement Subgroup**).
 - explore how AI can influence and enhance our service delivery and how we work (**AI Subgroup**).

2025-2026

- Plan a **joint seminar** focussing on careers and employability services working to support **PhD students** – link with Doctoral Studies WG.
- Develop a **toolbox of resources, materials, and guides** for use in Future Skills training sessions with students.
- Map involvement and experiences on micro-credentials across EMP WG members including recommendations for the future.
- Advance work of the Student Engagement and AI Subgroups to deliver on planned objectives.
- Develop new strategies / exchange practices on supporting students with disabilities.

Annex 3.6 Global Partnerships Working Group (GP WG)

Working Group Focus

The global social responsibility of universities requires their active engagement with global cooperation issues and challenges. The Coimbra Group aims at increasing such engagements to create an effective response to major cooperation challenges and a fruitful relation with the main global partnership and development agencies, *in primis* the European Union (EU).

The academic world plays an important role as promoter of a broad and solid approach to global cooperation, based on the issues of capacity strengthening, the promotion of a global citizenship education and the implementation of a participative approach to research and for global partnerships.

The activities of the Global Partnerships Working Group align with global and European policies in the sense that they refer to actual challenges in global partnerships, especially concerning the SDGs and their implementation in decolonization, education, and migration.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- Implementation of **joint training sessions and education programmes** (e.g., summer / winter schools) to contribute to the improvements of institutional capacities; Implementation of joint training sessions and education programmes in the framework of Erasmus+ projects.
- Sharing knowledge and experiences on **research for cooperation models and evaluation**, including a critical review of cooperation with low-income countries and the actions of the main international donors.
- Investigation on the **role of universities as agents of global cooperation** at the country or regional level, including the co-designing of experiences of higher education fostering ownership and human and institutional capacity strengthening.
- Development of a **European language policy in the context of global partnerships for education and modern languages**.

Recent highlights

- **CG Master programme in Peace & Conflict Studies (CGMIPCS)**: this initiative in the field of Peace & Conflict Studies offers a scientific approach to analyse violent and non-violent behaviours in order to better understand political conflict situations.

Students are given the possibility to move between the participating universities with the support of the Erasmus+ programme (KA131) to achieve specialist knowledge, as well as to apperceive different approaches. They can, thus, explore different cultural backgrounds already during their university studies. CG universities taking part in the initiative also build on their own links with partner universities in different regions of the world and countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. This opens diverse possibilities for students for undertaking their internships and thesis research. The Universities of Aarhus, Coimbra, Galway, Granada, Groningen, Jena, Poitiers, and Vilnius participate in the study programme.

The CGMIPCS project was launched in September 2021 with the organization of the network's first international conference at the University of Poitiers: "After the crisis: Justice, Institutions, Media. Which memory(s) of the conflict in the contemporary world?".

In March 2023, the 1st Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) on "Memory Studies: Peace, Conflict and Transformation" was organized at the University of Vilnius (coordinator), in cooperation with the Universities of Jena and Granada.

In October 2023, the third CGMIPCS Network conference took place at the University of Coimbra. The topic was "Peace, Imperialism and Postcolonialism". In March 2024, a CGMIPCS-seminar on "Traumata and Intentional Memory: Reconciliation Resources for our European Union" was hosted by the University of Jena.

- **International Conference "European Universities' Collaboration with China: Opportunities and Risks for Academic Exchange"**: this conference was organized by the University of Würzburg in collaboration with other CG members, on 29 February-1 March 2024. It debated how to better understand our Chinese partners and how to fruitfully cooperate in a changing world and research landscape.

The main panels covered the following sub-topics:

- Developments of EU-China relations,
- Developments in science diplomacy,
- National strategies to deal with Chinese HEIs
- CG Universities' best practices in collaborating with China.

The conference was very well received, and follow-up actions are planned.

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

- The **third “[International Summer School on European Multilingualism](#)”** will take place at the University of Niš (Serbia) from 23 to 29 June 2024.

With the support of CG universities, as well as the Erasmus+ KA131 action, teachers from the University of Coimbra, Graz, Jena, Poitiers (project coordinator) and Salamanca, all CG members, will propose, in collaboration with the teachers from the University of Niš an intensive short programme on European Multilingualism and Cultural Mediation Studies.

The aim is to share innovative approaches to teaching and learning languages. The intensive short programme offers courses of translation and language application in several small groups: Bulgarian, English, German, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. In addition, Language Discovering Workshops enables all participants to learn about the Less Widely Used and Lesser Taught languages (LWULT) and their important role in keeping language diversity and the world's multilingual heritage. The Summer School two LWULT Workshops: Modern Greek, Serbian and Turkish.

- **Joint session in cooperation with the Heritage and Latin America Working Groups on the decolonization of universities.** The session will be held at the CG Annual Conference in Turku, June 2024. It is planned to organize an event at a larger scale in 2025.
- **Planned cooperation with the University of Bristol on the “[Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations](#)”.** The Charter demands more equitable and more inclusive research relationships with higher education institutions in Africa. It was endorsed by the Coimbra Group, the African Union, the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), and other essential stakeholders. In addition to a conference planned in Brussels in the autumn 2024, the GP WG will organize several events in order to promote and disseminate knowledge on the Charter.

- Collaboration with The China Competence Centre of the University of Würzburg (CCCUW) on developing a **policy brief as a follow-up to the international conference “European universities’ collaboration with China: opportunities and risks for academic exchange”**.

Annex 3.7 Heritage Working Group (HER WG)

Working Group Focus

The Coimbra Group Heritage Working Group (HER WG) provides a space for all people working with cultural heritage, professional staff and researchers, to come together, to share ideas and to understand what the role of cultural heritage is, and what opportunities are provided by cultural heritage in universities. We have developed our work plan so that it focusses on fostering collaboration and asks questions about the issues facing cultural heritage practitioners in universities.

Our work plan is divided into six main areas:

- Cultural and built heritage and the University
- Contested / problematic heritage
- Conservation
- Shared Collections
- Joint projects and grant opportunities
- Promotion, networking and outreach

We recognise that the HER WG operates in a heritage space which is very large, complex and at times confusing. We are increasingly putting our efforts into understanding what we can contribute to the European cultural heritage space, where it makes sense for us to take a lead and where it makes more sense for us to partner with others. The creation of the European University Alliances has provided us with opportunities to collaborate with a new set of networks with a strong interest in culture.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- Contested / problematic heritage.
- Built heritage of Universities.
- Shared Collections.
- International conferences and workshops.
- Joint projects and grant opportunities.

Recent highlights

- **Call for papers for a publication on contested /problematic heritage** (to be published in summer 2024 with Coimbra Group funding).
- **Horizon Europe funding proposal** submitted (lead: University of Utrecht, February 2024).
- Promotion and outreach: **shared collections CG platform to be established.**
- **Cooperation with UMAC and UNIVERSEUM** and other networks in the field.
- **Inter-Working-Groups workshop on “Decolonising the University”** at the CG Annual Conference in Turku in cooperation with the Latin America WG and the Global Partnerships WG (5 June 2024).

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024 - 2025

- Publication of **open access book on contested / problematic heritage** at the University of Edinburgh (planned for summer 2024).
- Annual HER WG autumn meeting to be planned and organised (2024).
- Working on a **publication on the HER WG international seminars’ series** (University of Graz, planned for summer 2024).
- Following up the **inter-Working Groups cooperation on decolonising the university** (probably a joint workshop at the CG Annual Conference in Bologna in June 2025).
- Establishing a **platform to share already existing online collections and exhibitions at CG Universities** (online, hosted by the University of Cologne).
- Establishing a **conservator’s platform** (online, hosted by the University of Edinburgh).
- Establishing a **practical toolkit to handle contested / problematic heritage.**

2025 - 2026

- Exchange on student / teaching level based on shared collections (online?).
- Continue to work on above-mentioned projects and topic.
- Publication of a practical toolkit to handle contested / problematic collections at universities.
- Continue the cooperation with other networks in the field.
- Organising international seminar series and joint workshops.

Annex 3.8 Latin America Working Group (LA WG)

Working Group Focus

The Latin America Working Group (LA WG) aims to promote a space for scholarly exchange and interaction between Latin American Universities and Universities in the Coimbra Group, through which to ensure collaborative action takes place, that is impactful in both regions. Research, policy development and knowledge exchange, and knowledge diplomacy, should be rooted in understanding local and national priorities within Latin America, as well as strengths and benefits of collaboration in both regions, in order to implement long-term, sustainable partnerships.

Collaboration for academic advancement, knowledge dialogue and research development between European universities and Latin American institutions have a long tradition. The Coimbra Group has played an important role in providing links to institutions and networks which are relevant to this cooperation and has also in the past facilitated many initiatives and projects to the benefit of member institutions. Aimed to increasing knowledge of the opportunities and challenges in both regions, the LA WG will pursue a jointly agreed set of shared goals and synergies among Coimbra Group Universities, in order to increase the quality and quantity of academic cooperation with Latin American institutions, networks and agencies. With this perspective the LA WG will follow the numerous opportunities created by ongoing high level policy dialogues between the two regions. It is essential to understand the Latin American context from a 'global' perspective and define the role of Latin American experiences in tackling global challenges.

A key priority for the LA WG has been to reinforce and develop cooperation with networks in Latin America, such as AUGM, CLACSO, UDUAL, among others, with an approach that is based on building trust through activities promoting knowledge exchange and development. These include: research round tables, leading to joint research proposals; jointly created enhancement programmes and shared capacities around themes of mutual interest; mobility and exchange opportunities; as well as joint activities aimed to generate interaction at postgraduate level.

Contributing to the achievement of the above aims, the LA WG has focused on engagement with a range of institutions and organisations across Europe and Latin America (e.g. EU-LAC Foundation, EU Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, CLACSO, UNESCO, etc.) to support policy and practice discussions, contributing to plans and actions that are inclusive of Latin American higher education cultures and expertise, including research, teaching and professional services.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- To elaborate and disseminate the call for papers for the second edition of the book “Why Latin America Matters” as a platform for discussion and interaction on the role of the region in future global development, this time from a Latin American perspective. We aim at having the final draft ready for print by the end of 2024/beginning 2025.
- To enable a platform for exchange with similar networks in the region (UDUAL, CLACSO, AUGM), in order to develop joint activities with a concrete impact in shaping the research and education EU-LAC collaborative landscape.
- To engage with EU and Latin America-based institutions and political representatives in both regions to contribute to policy development that promotes sustainability and socio-economic inclusion in Latin America and that enables a reflection over the role of Latin America in global politics and sustainable development.
- To explore the potential of joint activities across CG working groups, enhancing Coimbra Group’s expertise in European engagement with the Majority World.
- Explore funding opportunities across EU programmes (Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, etc.) as well as Latin America-focused funding bodies (UNESCO, EU-LAC Foundation, etc.), to support collaboration across research and education.

Recent highlights

- Participation at the [EU-LAC International Foundation Knowledge Forum](#), which took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, in April 2023, where the LA WG contributed to the agenda for bi-regional cooperation, that was then presented at the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Brussels in July 2023 in the field of access to knowledge, higher education, and science, technology, and innovation.
- Active participation in the [Academic Forum](#) of the Permanent Academic Forum between Latin America and the European Union (FAP ALC-UE) that took place in Alcalá de Henares, on 7-8 July 2023. LA WG has participated in the panel “The contribution of the LA-EU academic community to the

strategic autonomy and the inherent challenges of XXI century – the Common Area of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation”.

- Co-organisation of the workshop on “[Encouraging equitable research and innovation partnerships with low- and middle-income countries](#)”(18 January 2024) in collaboration with the European Commission, The Guild, the German Commission for UNESCO, Euroscience, Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), TRUST project, Spain, France, Australia and South Africa.

Developed in the framework of the European Commission’s Multilateral Dialogue on Values and Principles underpinning international research and innovation (R&I), it has gathered 123 participants from 35 countries and 16 stakeholders. The aim of this workshop was to have an open discussion in order to establish an understanding of the main commonalities, differences, challenges and best practices that exist in different countries (regions) of the world.

- INCAS Erasmus+ funding application submitted in February 2024.
- Coimbra Group [Statement](#) on Universities in Nicaragua (24 April 2024).

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024 - 2025

- Elaborate and disseminate the call for papers for the **2nd edition of the book “Why Latin America Matters”** (potentially in cooperation with CLACSO). We aim at having a final draft ready for publishing in the beginning of 2025.
- Continue to **engage with EU-LAC Foundation and the FAP ALC-UE** (and other relevant networks), through participation at key events and collaboration in the development of concept notes and supporting documentation for international organisations and governments in both regions.
- The LA WG is leading the development of an **initial Latin America Briefing document** which will support a more comprehensive understanding of the region across CG Universities and the identification of opportunities for collaboration. It is the intention of the group to continue developing similar

briefings as follow up to the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

- Cooperate in an **international, interdisciplinary and multi-actors event** organized around the celebration of Coimbra Group 40th anniversary, both in Europe and Latin America (around the upcoming COP 2025 in Brazil).
- Elaborate a **joint plan for curriculum sharing** aimed at engaging with partners in the region to exchange teaching materials and online lectures, in accessible, resource efficient manner.

2025 - 2026

- Develop a **funding application**, in either education or research, under the framework of relevant European Commission programmes (e.g. Erasmus+, Horizon etc.)
- Explore the possibility of organizing a **second high-level event** with significant academic input and the broad participation of private and public stakeholders aiming to co-create a joint agenda for collaboration (first edition took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, 5-6 December 2022).
- **Publication “Why Latin America Matters - volume II”** in collaboration with CLACSO.
- Joint (potentially with CLACSO) **academic seminar in LAC** (Colombia, around the dates of the CLACSO conference) on selected common/cross cutting challenges for LAC and Europe.
- Foster ties, and explore possibilities for **formal cooperation agreements**, with central European actors in LAC such as Fundación Carolina, DAAD, SEGIB, CALAS and others.

Annex 3.9 Life Sciences Working Group

Working Group Focus

Proposed actions aim at increasing the excellence and competitiveness of our Universities in the context of the Life Sciences, considering the whole field of academic engagement, i.e., teaching, research and transfer, all understood in their widest context. The focus of the WG is clearly oriented towards the development of common strategies of teaching and research. Master programmes are considered of utmost importance for high level education and development of skills for future high level bioscientists as well the initial step for the development of bioscience research and the promotion of vocations in the bioscience area. Several Master programme projects have been identified of common interest.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- Master Cancer Biology
- Master Global Change Ecology
- Master Infection Biology
- Blended Intensive Programmes and Student Mobility

Recent highlights

- Preparation of joint BIPs (Blended Intensive Programmes) between CG Universities involved in the Life Sciences Working Group (LS WG).
- Follow-up of developments towards a European Joint Degree and exploration of potential opportunities for the Life Sciences WG.

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024 - 2026

- **MASTER BIOSCIENCES PROGRAMMES**
 - **Master Cancer Biology, 2025:** Reapplication for Erasmus Mundus funding (Pavia, Montpellier, Montreal) under the coordination of the University of Pavia.

The universities of Åbo Akademi, Barcelona, Coimbra, Köln, Montpellier, Pavia, Salamanca, Tartu, Turku, Utrecht, Vilnius and Würzburg are involved.
 - **Master Global Change Ecology, 2024:** Double Degree programme of the Universities of Bergen and Würzburg, other CG universities may be involved.

- **Master Infection Biology 2026:** Starting with a BIP, a double degree programme will be developed by the Universities of Montpellier and Würzburg. More CG universities will be involved.
- **BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMMES**
 - **Environmental Remote Sensing (2024-2025)**, coordinated by Dr. Shawn Carlisle Kefauver, University of Barcelona:
 - Presentation of basic to advanced techniques and concepts of environmental remote sensing in the field of applications in agriculture and forestry, ecology, water quality, oceanography, urban planning, air pollution monitoring, and climate change.
 - Theory and current use of fixed sensors, field sensors, manned and unmanned aerial platforms, and ESA and NASA satellites.
 - Discuss concepts, methodologies, and best practices related to the remote sensing of different natural, anthropogenic and hybrid environments, including quantitative measurements related to plants, water, soil, geological, and urban assessments.
 - **Stem Cells and Gene Editing (July 2024)** coordinated by Dr. Ana Sevilla, University of Barcelona, with the Universities of Montpellier and Vilnius:
 - Stem cells biology and regenerative medicine.
 - Reprogramming methods, characterization, differentiation to specific lineages, brain organoids and genetic manipulation.
 - Ethics, public engagement/ and science communication.
 - Immunofluorescence, PCR and FACS analysis.
 - **Modern methods in Infection Biology (2025)** coordinated by Prof. Mauld Lamarque, University of Montpellier, and Susanne Kramer and Christian Janzen, University of Würzburg:
 - Acquire the fundamental knowledge in microscopy.
 - Introduce basic concepts of image analysis.
 - Develop transdisciplinary approaches applied to infection biology including biology / bioinformatics, biology/one health using a range of human parasites.
 - Develop critical thinking about the technical limitations of the microscopy techniques.

- Acquire diverse expertise in infectious microbiology, complex datasets analyses (“omics” ...), images and FACS analyses.
 - Become sensitized to the integrated “One Health” concept.
 - Develop oral presentation skills, language proficiency and collaborative teamwork.
- **Redox Biology in Health and Diseases (2025)** coordinated by Prof. Teresa Carbonell, University of Barcelona, with the Universities of Coimbra, Montpellier, and Pavia:
- Stress signaling, survival and resilience during the evolutionary development of life.
 - Redox chemistry based on sulphide, nitrogen and oxygen.
 - Formation of ROS in the body. Enzymatic production of superoxide, hydrogen peroxide, nitric oxide and derived species. redox interactome.
 - Effects of free radicals on biomolecules: lipoperoxidation. Protein oxidation. Oxidation of carbohydrates. DNA oxidation.
 - ROS scavenging: the Keap1-Nrf2 pathway. Enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants. The glutathione system.
 - Oxidative stress in physiology. Nutrition and antioxidants. Aging and frailty.
 - Redox signaling as a fundamental control for adaptations to the physiology of physical exercise.
 - Redox imbalance and oxidative damage in pathological processes: Metabolic diseases. Atherosclerosis. Neurodegenerative diseases. Cancer.
 - Methodologies for the analysis of markers of oxidative stress, oxidants and antioxidants.
- **Liposomes to improve pharmacological treatments of infectious and cancer diseases (2025)** coordinated by Prof. Amparo Sanchez Navarro, University of Salamanca, with the University of Würzburg:
- Relevance of nanotechnology in the pharmaceutical area to improve the benefit/risk balance of pharmacological treatments, in particular for cancer and infectious diseases.
 - Advantages and disadvantages of liposomes as drug nanocarriers for drug targeting.
 - Integrate molecular biology of cancer or infections with pharmacology and pharmaceutical technology.

- Design liposomes tailored for the efficient delivery of drugs at the tumours or infected tissues.
- **Skeleton, from new research technologies to therapeutics (2025)** coordinated by Prof Antonella Forlino and Prof. Antonio Rossi, University of Pavia, with the Universities of Ghent, Linz, Lublin and Paris Cité:
 - Overview of modern skeletal biology as emerged from the latest genetic and molecular characterization of rare and common disorders.
 - Bone: evolutionary developmental biology (Ghent University, Belgium).
 - Modelling skeletal diseases: from cells to mammals (University Paris-Cité, France).
 - Genetics and Omics; from Common to Rare bone diseases (University of Barcelona, Spain).
 - Innovative therapy targeting bone signaling pathway (University of Pavia, Italy).
 - Provide the students with a deep knowledge of skeletal biology focusing on the new discovered therapeutic targets used for innovative therapeutic approaches.

Annex 3.10 Research Support Officers Working Group (RSO WG)

Working Group Focus

The Coimbra Group elevates research as a key component alongside education and innovation within its member institutions, addressing challenges at various scales. It provides a unique platform for shaping European research policies and fostering best practices in research support.

The Research Support Officers WG (RSO WG) unites over 60 university representatives to enhance research strategies through idea exchange and expert collaboration. Actively engaging with European Research Area priorities, they focus on strategic advocacy, knowledge dissemination, and fostering innovation, ensuring their activities align with both the Coimbra Group's mission and the evolving research landscape. The WG's focused endeavours include:

Strategic Policy Advocacy: The group assists the Executive Board in shaping research policy by crafting insightful position papers on European Research Policy. This initiative is further enhanced through proactive engagement with analogous networks and national stakeholders, aiming for cohesive advocacy efforts. This engagement is now more crucial than ever, given the European Research Area (ERA)'s recent focus on inclusive and sustainable research environments, ensuring that policies reflect the evolving needs of the research community.

Best Practice and Experience Sharing: The group continues to serve as a central hub for the dissemination of best practices and experiences in research management and support. We continuously advance our knowledge by hosting experts from diverse fields and institutional backgrounds, such as individuals from the European Commission, other networks or members of relevant projects. This objective has gained additional significance with the ERA's renewed emphasis on fostering excellence and competitiveness across European research institutions, encouraging a culture of continuous improvement and adaptation to global standards.

Facilitating Knowledge Exchange: The promotion of knowledge exchange via the mobility of research support staff remains a key area of focus. This initiative is directly aligned with the ERA's objective to enhance human resource policies and ensure the free circulation of researchers and knowledge within the EU. The group thereby contributes to building a more cohesive, ERA-wide research ecosystem.

Collaborative Synergy: Collaboration between the Working Groups amplifies Coimbra Group's impact related to Research and Innovation. This approach fits into ERA's strategic framework, which advocates for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research collaborations. Thereby, the RSO WG taps into collective expertise, fostering innovation and addressing societal challenges.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- **Exploring the use of generative AI in the Research Management and Administration (RMA) profession:** To understand and optimize the application of generative AI technologies in streamlining research management processes, enhancing productivity, and fostering innovation within the RMA profession.
- **Best practice in Research Support within European University Alliances:** To foster a collaborative and efficient research support framework that leverages the strengths of European University Alliances, enhancing the international competitiveness and visibility of European research.
- **Any good practices on synergies between Education and Research:** To strengthen the integration of research with teaching and learning processes, ensuring that education contributes to and benefits from cutting-edge research, thereby enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education.
- Closely observe the **development of ERA Action 17** which is focused on enhancing the training and skills of research management staff, improving management competencies of researchers and innovators, increasing networking among research managers, and promoting the recognition of the research and innovation (R&I) management profession at institutional and governmental levels.

Recent Highlights

- On 22 November 2023, RSO WG members gathered at Charles University for a workshop providing hands-on experience with AI applications, particularly focusing on ChatGPT and other large language models. This workshop provided a great boost in practical knowledge, benefiting all participants in their work.

- The conference on the “Responsible Use of AI in Universities”, held at Charles University on 23 November 2023, attracted 110 registered participants from 29 universities, 6 ministries, the Czech Academy of Sciences, and 3 private companies. The event provided a comprehensive exploration of the responsible integration of Large Language Models into academic settings, addressing both its advantages and challenges. The event was selected for funding by the Coimbra Group. Check the conference [short report](#).
- Feedback continues to be received on the Coimbra Group's position paper regarding the "[Past, present, and future of the European Research & Innovation Framework programmes 2014-2027](#)", even a year after its publication, for instance during exchanges with members of the Commission’s high level expert group on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe. Particular attention is being paid to the recommendations for enhancing the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024-2025

- Discuss the **impact of European University Alliances** co-operation.
- Continue the work on **Open Science and Open Research**, including the current discussion on research security.
- Share best practice and experience related to the **integration of RSOs into the project’s lifecycle**.
- Support for **incoming researchers**.
- **Research Integrity and Research Ethics**.

2025-2026

- Share best practice on **Gender and research**.
- Assess the **Social Impact of the EU R&I Framework Programme**, including specific viewpoints from the SSH.
- Discuss **first WP for FP10 in 2026**.
- **Conference on Sustainability in Research Practices** (Q2 2025 or 2026, venue TBC): Sharing insights and strategies for incorporating sustainability into research methodologies, funding, and dissemination, aligned with global sustainability goals.

Annex 3.11 Social Science and Humanities Working Group (SSH WG)

Working Group Focus

In the forthcoming years, the Coimbra Group Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) Working Group (WG) will continue its focus on tasks and activities related to research and education, as well as outreach and visibility. However, its primary objective will be to support the SSH research initiatives of member universities.

To achieve this, the WG will organize seminars and conferences on the implications of multidisciplinary SSH research projects within CG universities. Additionally, the WG will prioritize the collection of new data and the provision of increased research opportunities. It is worth noting that new research themes, including digitalization, machine learning, the ongoing situation in Ukraine, narratives in climate change, and emergent crises and conflicts within societies, will feature prominently in SSH activities from 2024 to 2026. These new topics will address the current surge in AI within the SSH, societal crises, and the concept of solidarity. The SSH WG will also focus on redefining the role of languages in modern society.

Secondly, building on the insights gained from seminars and conferences, the WG aims to develop successful research proposals for international funding bodies, such as EU funding bodies. Previously, the multidisciplinary requirements of EU calls have posed challenges for SSH scholars. Therefore, the WG will emphasize a multidisciplinary research approach and highlight the collaborative nature of SSH to tackle this issue. Additionally, the WG will disseminate information on timely research funding opportunities across member universities and actively participate in the CoARA (Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment) [Working Group "Evaluating SSH research globally"](#).

Thirdly, the SSH WG will serve as an overarching and coordinating structure in the research and educational domains of SSH within the framework of the European Universities Alliances Initiative. Consequently, the WG will act as a liaison between different working groups (self-steering committees/virtual institutes, etc.) from Alliances associated with the Coimbra Group.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- At least **one international conference per year** will be organized and the **proceedings** published.
- As an important long-term goal, the WG will look into **general themes and specific calls in which SSH research undertaken at CG Universities might find success**. Prior work on funding proposals has been conducted, in connection to meetings and conferences.
- An **inter-European University Alliances coordination** committee will be set up for exploring, mapping and then planning future inter-Alliance activities.
- We will continue to stress the **role of SSH for postgraduate and doctoral education** and increase our levels of collaboration with other CG representatives at the home universities, if possible via Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs). We will use BIPs for intra-CG cooperation on postgrad and doctoral levels.

Recent highlights

- CG Conference “Reflecting on peace in Ukraine: long term narratives, wars of disinformation, peace diplomacy and peace building” (23-24 January 2023, Brussels).
- Inter-European Universities Alliances International Conference “New Narratives for a Damaged Planet: Humanities and Social Sciences Perspectives on the Climate Crisis” (16–17 November 2023, Jagiellonian University, Kraków).

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024–2025

- **Educational Workshop on changing times in the SSH** (AI - big data - ChatGPT) at Charles University in Prague (Fall 2024, one and a half days).
- **SSH conference “Old Cities, Former Capitals and the Nation-State Building in Europe (18th-20th centuries): regional and national identities”** (Fall 2024 or Spring 2025).

- Actively taking part in the **CoARA WG “Evaluating SSH research globally”**.

2025-2026

- **SSH conference “Thinking between/beyond languages”** (Spring 2025 or Fall 2025, host university tbd).
- **Conference “Concept of solidarity in Europe - a transdisciplinary approach”** (Fall 2025 or Spring 2026, University of Pavia).

Annex 3.12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Working Group (STEM WG)

Working Group Focus

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (in this established acronym-friendly order) have benefited, over the centuries and still today, from fundamental contributions of scholars from universities which are now members of the Coimbra Group. STEM remains a major factor of modernization and progress for society at large. As research-intensive universities, the members of the Coimbra Group are firmly committed to and constantly develop and expand their research and education in STEM, also including societal outreach related to these fields.

Priorities for 2024 – 2026

- **Good practices in science communication:** Effective initiatives to encourage and attract young people and in particular girls to STEM fields are of fundamental importance. We want to establish which activities are carried out in the STEM WG Universities to facilitate the entry in STEM studies of young people (national and local projects), paying particular attention to actions for gender balance. Eventually, the analysis will be expanded to all CG Universities. The initiative started under the coordination of Geneva and Kraków STEM WG representatives. The results are to be published in an online compendium. Additionally, they will be presented at the CG Annual Conference & General Assembly in Turku in June 2024.
- **New teaching & learning methodologies in STEM:** STEM disciplines chronically suffer of a low number of new students and a significant drop-out, after the COVID-19 crisis. Innovation and new teaching methodologies in STEM (active learning) can help to facilitate learning and keep regular the student carrier. We want to establish and discuss which innovative and active learning activities are carried out at local level of each CG Universities in STEM disciplines, with particular attention to training labs (virtual-experimental labs). Additionally, significant attention will be given to exploring the integration of teaching methodologies with the advent of artificial intelligence, examining both the positive and negative impacts on students.

- **Women in STEM:** There is a chronic low presence of women in STEM fields at all levels, in particular at PhD, post-docs and academic level. We will carry out an analysis (on-line surveys, interviews) at Master, PhD, post-docs levels to gain information on which are the expectations and main difficulties of early-stage female-researchers in STEM fields. There are possibilities for carrying out this project also at inter-WG level (Doctoral Studies and Equality and Diversity WGs). Furthermore, we want to collect testimonials from STEM female-researchers as positive and successful models (interviews).
- **Research assessment in STEM disciplines:** The new principles promoted by the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment ([CoARA](#)), of which CG and several of its members are members, is likely to transform the way research will be evaluated and funded in the coming years. These changes will influence the future recruitments and promotions of researchers and academics in the EU. It is important to share the good practices in STEM disciplines that are and will be implemented by CG universities to increase the quality of research, to promote scientific integrity and engagement with society. This reform will change the way quantitative indicators will be considered, including the use of h-index, citations and journal impact factor. We thus aim to gather information and host a one-day conference where experts will discuss the key innovations and future trends in research assessment.

Recent highlights

- **Coimbra Group STEM WG Winter Meeting 2023**, held online on November 13, 2023.
- Participation in the **Coimbra Group WGs funding scheme** (deadline 31 March 2024), with proposals focusing on active learning in STEM disciplines.
- **Presentation of the results from the initiative "Good Practices in Science Communication"** at CG Annual Conference & General Assembly in Turku, scheduled on 5 June 2024.

Ongoing / Forthcoming activities

2024 - 2025

- **Good practices in attracting young people to STEM fields:** Compendium of CG good practice of initiatives to encourage and attract young people and in particular girls to STEM fields (coordinated by Geneva and Kraków representatives). Publication and dissemination of the online compendium (CG website, Newsletter and targeted recipients).
- **New teaching & learning methodologies in STEM:**
 - Survey on innovative and active learning activities carried out at local level of each CG Universities in STEM disciplines, with particular attention to training labs (virtual-experimental labs).
 - Organization of a one-day workshop on the topic (Padova, 14 November 2024) aligned with the [Teaching4learning](#) project, back-to-back with a STEM WG meeting.
- **Research assessment in STEM disciplines:** workshop to be organised in the Spring 2025 dedicated to exploring the implications of new forms of research assessment. This event will feature experts discussing on the propositions emerging from the work of the CoARA and related topics.

2025 - 2026

- **Women in STEM:** analysis (on-line surveys, interviews) at Master, PhD, post-docs levels to gain information on which are the expectations and main difficulties of early-stage female-researchers in STEM fields. Preparation of the survey, distribution of the questionnaires, data analysis, preparation of the report (Spring 2025 - Winter 2025).
- **Promoting academic cooperation in STEM programmes:** organization of a one day-workshop on Research Evaluation in STEM fields and in the different realities of the CG Universities (back-to-back with a STEM WG meeting).

Annex 4

List of Coimbra Group Statements and Policy Papers 2023-2024

- **4.1 Reaction to the European Innovation Council Board’s statement on intellectual property**
(27 June 2023)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/wp-content/uploads/Reaction-to-the-European-Innovation-Council-Boards-statement-on-intellectual-property.pdf>
- **4.2 25 R&I organisations urge the African Union and European Union to take a novel funding approach to science cooperation**
(01 June 2023)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/25-ri-organisations-urge-african-union-and-european-union-to-take-a-novel-funding-approach-to-science-cooperation>
- **4.3 Showing strong solidarity with our Israeli colleagues**
(28 July 2023)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/showing-strong-solidarity-with-our-israeli-colleagues>
- **4.4 Coimbra Group signs Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations**
(05 July 2023)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/corevip-2023-and-launch-of-the-africa-charter-for-transformative-research-collaborations/>
- **4.5 Coimbra Group welcomes announcement of UK association to Horizon Europe**
(08 September 2023)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/coimbra-group-welcomes-announcement-of-uk-association-to-horizon-europe>
- **4.6 European university associations welcome proposal for Council Recommendation on Research Careers - further steps needed**
(02 November 2023)
Link: https://www.coimbra-group.eu/wp-content/uploads/20231102-Unis_Reaction_Proposal_Council_Rec_Talent.pdf

- **4.7 Coimbra Group's Recommendations for the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 Interim Evaluation**
(12 December 2023)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/wp-content/uploads/CG-Erasmus-2021-27-interim-evaluation.pdf>
- **4.8 Coimbra Group joins the conversation on Open Science**
(14 February 2024)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/wp-content/uploads/20240214--EB-RAG-Joint-Statement-on-Open-Science.pdf>
- **4.9 Coimbra Group signs the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information**
(16 April 2024)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/coimbra-group-signs-the-barcelona-declaration-on-open-research-information>
- **4.10 Coimbra Group supports the More Than Our Rank initiative**
(19 April 2024)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/coimbra-group-supports-the-more-than-our-rank-initiative>
- **4.11 Coimbra Group Statement on Universities in Nicaragua**
(24 April 2024)
Link: <https://www.coimbra-group.eu/coimbra-group-statement-on-universities-in-nicaragua>

Annex 5
Newsletter Editorials 2023-2024

What Research for the Future? Balancing the Obsession with Publishing and the Need for Social Impact

Rector Roberto Di Pietra, University of Siena

[Link to online version](#)

In a couple of years (2024-2025), Italian universities will be called upon to participate in the fourth research assessment exercise conducted by the “Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes” (ANVUR). It is certainly an important step for the main institutions of Italian scientific research and, once again, a significant opportunity to reflect on the sense and meaning of research.

All the actors involved in universities and, particularly, all the scholars from Italian universities are called upon to submit the best results of their research activities for evaluation. This evaluation follows both the logic of informed peer review and bibliometric measurement.

It is not my intention to delve into the terms and mechanisms of this evaluation system. This is not the purpose of this editorial. Rather, I am interested in the consequences triggered by this established experience of research evaluation, and particularly the inevitably distorting effects on the Italian scientific community.

The research evaluation system impacts recruitment systems and career paths in Italian universities. A significant portion of State funding to Italian universities derives from research evaluation. All forms of financial resource distribution within each Italian university originate from research evaluation.

Therefore, it is inevitable that a large part of behaviors, choices, and the overall narrative of the Italian university moment revolves around the ability to publish, the quantity of research products, and the results of research evaluation. Much is said about the outcome of research and much less about the content of research, and even less about the impact of research. There is little discussion about the impact of research not only in the scientific environment but also and especially on society and people’s lives.

The importance of publication in the lives of many Italian scholars ends up becoming almost a sort of “obsession”. Rather than discussing the themes of their research, more focus is placed on publication and its placement in one or another scientific journal. The “means” seems to have become more important than the “end”.

I do not want to question the importance of research and quality research. Research evaluation processes are extremely relevant. The importance of these processes is particularly relevant considering the fact that in Italy a large portion of research is funded by public and State resources. There is no going back from research evaluation.

However, it is necessary to ask whether, after almost two decades of research evaluation, the time has come to restore centrality to “content” rather than “container”; quality rather than quantity of

published research products. It is necessary to ask whether it is time to rebalance attention by shifting the focus from the obsession with continuous and abundant publishing to communicate the results of truly new research capable of bringing about changes.

It is not a question of the usefulness of research. The importance of basic research cannot be questioned. This is not the issue. The issue is perhaps to slow down the mechanisms of hyperproduction of published research products to achieve better dissemination of truly impactful research results. Impactful in the scientific community, first and foremost on society.

The obsession with publication confuses university scholars, altering their role, which also includes being good teachers. University professors are such because they are good researchers and excellent teachers. The time dedicated to teaching cannot be considered time taken away from research and therefore the possibility of publishing more.

This reflection tells us that some distorting consequences have occurred in recent years. I believe that these distortions do not only concern the Italian context. I believe it can be said that beyond the undeniable positive effects induced by research quality measurement systems, something must be done to rebalance the situation. We must place the content of research and its actual impact value on the society that finances it. We must focus on the multifunctional role of university scholars who are not “paper machines” but also educators.

If it is the measurement systems that determine these distortions, then we must correct the measurement systems by intervening to reduce the push for hyperproduction, to enhance social impact, to emphasize the multidimensionality of university professors.

I do not know how it's done, but I know it must be done.

The topics I have tried to outline do not only concern the Italian context but assume international relevance. In this respect the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment ([CoARA](#)) will contribute to address these issues. We are just waiting for a European agreement on research evaluation.

Coimbra Group's frontrunner role, in shaping the COARA and in supporting initiatives like “[More Than Our Rank](#)” and the [Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information](#), can help us take these reflections forward in our respective institutions and national contexts and trigger the systemic changes we need.

European universities' collaboration with China: Beyond a fear-driven approach

Paul Pauli, President, Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg

Doris Fischer, Vice-President for Internationalisation and Alumni and Chair of China Business and Economics, Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg

[Link to online version](#)

In 2019, the European Union first named China a systemic rival. Currently, China is regularly named as a partner, as a competitor, and as a rival. This is an attempt to describe the complex relationship with a country whose global influence has grown substantially over the past twenty-five years. More recently, due to the Russian war on Ukraine and other geopolitical crises, the European Union and some European national governments have started to reassess their science and education cooperation policies with international partners.

In late February 2024, a large group of representatives from Coimbra Group Universities and other higher education institutions met in Würzburg, Germany, to discuss perspectives for the collaboration of European universities with China. The [conference](#) was organized jointly by the [China Competence Center of the University of Würzburg](#) and the [Global Partnerships Working Group](#) of the Coimbra Group.

During the two days of topical presentations, exchange on best practices and interactive work in small groups, the discussions among academics and staff from leading European universities showcased the high degree of uncertainty in this area, but also the desire for continued collaboration with Chinese partners. Intense conversations in the fields of 'Education/Study', 'Science' and 'Science Policy' helped identify the participants' wants and concerns.

A major concern expressed throughout the conference is the lack of knowledge about China among scientists and research-supporting staff. Also, while acknowledging the need for regulation of certain forms of collaboration, the participants shared their worries about the possible increase of political interference and administrative burden regarding collaboration with China, both at teaching and research level. The strong emphasis put on the risks of collaboration in the political discourse was perceived as reflecting a lack of awareness from policymakers about the risks of not collaborating. Participants were concerned about a possible discrimination against Chinese students and researchers. More generally they dreaded a "weaponization of knowledge".

Reflecting on possible ways to address these concerns, participants expressed strong interest in seeing more scholarly research on, in, and with, China. While such research is of general interest, it also provides possibilities for non-China experts to learn about China's system of education, research, and innovation. The need for more high-quality information was further echoed in the suggestion to establish support services and infrastructures for scholars and institutions to assess the risks and specific challenges of collaborating with China. In a similar vein, participants wished to see more opportunities for exchange among institutions and scholars on experiences and best practices. A long-term vision that outlines the European objectives and values would help higher education institutions build specific in-house China competence. To reinforce trust policymakers, scientists and industrial actors need to collaborate on designing science cooperation policy in this area. Importantly, Chinese narratives should not be ignored when designing science cooperation policies for China.

Concrete lines for action were also brought up by the participants, that will be presented to the Coimbra Group Executive Board in the coming months. These include the suggestion to continue facilitating within the Coimbra Group exchanges on the collaboration with China, for example by establishing a new Working Group on this topic or a subgroup within the Global Partnerships WG. This would allow the Coimbra Group to consolidate European universities' perspectives on, and demands for, collaboration with China in view to influence future EU policymaking in Brussels. This would also help Coimbra Group members to voice their views vis-à-vis their national governments.

Dreams and hopes for the future of universities

Yves Flückiger, Rector, University of Geneva

[Link to online version](#)

Often tested, increasingly facing multiple pressures, academic freedom and freedom of expression are essential foundations for the development of our universities, the pillars upon which intellectual progress, innovation, and mutual understanding rest. Today more than ever, it is imperative to defend and preserve them.

Academic freedom is the principle that researchers, teachers, and students have the right to pursue their studies, conduct their research, and express their ideas without external interference. This not only means the freedom to seek the truth and push the boundaries of knowledge but also the freedom to criticize, question, and even challenge established ideas. However academic freedom also entails responsibilities. It has to be exercised in compliance with laws, study regulations, professional duties, as well as competency frameworks.

Alongside academic freedom, freedom of expression is a fundamental right that ensures everyone the opportunity to share their opinions and ideas without fear of repression or censorship. It is the cornerstone of democracy and intellectual diversity, enabling open debate and constructive dissent. In the current context, marked by the terrorist acts of October 7, 2023, and the unprecedented violence they unleashed in the Gaza Strip, universities must reaffirm the importance of freedom of expression and the right of all to debate, present arguments, and embrace disagreements.

It is a necessary condition for academic thought and, more broadly, for the proper functioning of our democracies. Faced with tensions and the hardening of expressed positions, this freedom must be framed by clear principles that protect it: rejection of all forms of discrimination, calls for violence, or violations of ethical and professional principles.

Within the limits outlined above, all questions must be allowed at the university, even when they involve complex situations that require multiple perspectives. This freedom entails disagreements and discomfort that must be accepted. However, the form taken by events or expressions – as well as the context in which they occur – must take into account the sensitivities of members of the academic community, protecting their right to a healthy working and studying environment in which they can evolve without fears or threats.

Between freedom of expression and the respect due for all, the path is narrow. Projects must be evaluated, sometimes re-evaluated, in light of the disturbances they cause and the intentional or unintentional harm they may cause to the cohesion of the academic community, while resisting the deceptive comfort of censorship or self-censorship. Our ability to fulfill our missions and to comprehend the world depends on it.

Faced with these challenges, it is imperative that our universities remain vigilant, united, and committed. They must uncompromisingly defend the right of their community members to freely seek,

teach, and discuss. By defending these freedoms, we not only safeguard the rights of individuals but also the very possibility of democratic debate and a collective quest for truth and justice.

As I prepare to step down from my position as rector of the University of Geneva, allow me to share my dreams and hopes for the future. Dreams of universities that foster creativity, ensuring academic freedom, the most fertile ground for fundamental research. Dreams of universities capable of staying ahead, willing to take risks in an uncertain yet opportunity-rich environment. Dreams of universities that constantly reinvent themselves to meet the challenges our societies must confront. Dreams of universities capable of envisioning new forms of knowledge access and transmission. All together, united through our long-standing cooperation in the Coimbra Group, we can turn these dreams into reality.

**Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU 2023:
Many achievements but concerns about unresolved issues**

Joan Guàrdia Olmos, Rector, University of Barcelona
Pedro Mercado Pacheco, Rector, University of Granada
Ricardo Rivero, Rector, University of Salamanca

[Link to online version](#)

The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) concluded a month ago, prompting the need to assess its achievements and shortcomings in the university sector. While there were commendable successes, some aspects raised concerns within the European academic community.

The Spanish Presidency prioritized open strategic autonomy, emphasizing collaboration and a shared vision among member states. This approach has fostered a conducive environment for international cooperation in research and academic partnerships, promoting the exchange of knowledge and expertise among European universities and strengthening the role of science as a relevant tool for EU diplomacy. We are particularly thankful to the role the Spanish Presidency played in organising the second [Forum of European University Alliances](#), held in September 2023 in Barcelona.

Another measurable achievement has been the emphasis placed on the Ecological Transition. Spain initiated EU-wide initiatives aimed at aligning university research and education with sustainable practices, and these initiatives have been well-received in the higher education institutions landscape. This focus on environmental sustainability reflects a forward-looking approach to addressing global challenges through academia, and we welcome this achievement.

The Spanish Presidency has also played a crucial role in highlighting social priorities, emphasizing a commitment to addressing societal needs through academia. This inclusive approach is reflected in initiatives supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the university sector, enhancing its societal impact.

As with any presidency of the European Council, these positive aspects have been accompanied by some shortcomings. Maybe the most notable concern is the proposal to cut funds from Horizon Europe. The suggested [reduction of up to €5.3 billion](#) raises apprehensions about the potential impact on research and innovation in the university sector. We all acknowledge that adequate funding is crucial for maintaining the competitiveness and excellence of European universities on the global stage. Budgetary restrictions in the Horizon Europe programme are not the way forward.

As the Spanish Presidency comes to an end and the Belgian one begins, there are still pending issues within the university sector. While some achievements have been made, addressing unresolved matters is now vital for sustaining the overall positive momentum generated during the Spanish Presidency. We need the EU member states at all levels of government to ensure the continued growth and excellence of European universities and European University Alliances.

Together with the other members of the Coimbra Group we remain deeply committed to support all efforts towards these goals.

Achieving Excellence at Universities: What does it mean in times of multiple crises?

Ludovic Thilly, Coimbra Group Executive Board Chair, University of Poitiers

Beatrix Busse, Coimbra Group Executive Board Vice-Chair, University of Cologne

Emmanuelle Gardan, Coimbra Group Brussels Office Director

[Link to online version](#)

As our world is facing multiple simultaneous and interconnected crises and transitions which affect the social fabric of our societies and democracies, universities cannot pretend as if nothing has happened and continue to function as before. Increased threats to academic freedom and to frontier research. Accelerated geopolitical developments and crises. Structural lack of resources in the university sector – human resources, funding, political support. Unfolding reform of research assessment. Global move towards open science and open bibliometric data.

This is just a fraction of the challenges that are present in our communities and that need to be considered by university leadership. Times call upon us to question our institutions and adapt. This will not happen if we do not move beyond the never-ending debate on excellence and rather emphasize the need for a different approach to it – for instance by better recognising the interdependence between research excellence and education excellence taking also into account our societal mission. Let's therefore seize this period as a crucial opportunity for moving forward as institutions, as a network and as a sector.

The 2023 Coimbra Group High-Level Seminar on Research Policy, which gathered the Rectors and Vice-Rectors for Research and Internationalisation of CG Universities on 13-14 November in Brussels, was developed by the Executive Board with this responsibility in mind. The event, themed "Achieving Excellence at Universities: What does it mean in times of multiple crises?", offered rich and topical debates.

If there are no easy answers to this question, there are, however, many different paths, directions, ways to move on and explore. The seminar was aimed exactly at that: Examining the systemic components of excellence, getting the conversation going across the spectrum of Universities' missions, looking at human resources-related policies, as well as questioning together common standards and prevailing thinking.

What incredibly inspiring and thought-provoking two days these have been! Welcoming the participation of several keynote and guest speakers, such as ERC President Maria Leptin ([link to her keynote](#)), the Commission's DG RTD Deputy Director-General Signe Ratso, EU Commissioner Iliana Ivanova through a message read by her cabinet, or MEP Maria da Graça Carvalho, to name only a few – who have challenged us and nurtured our debate.

In our discussions, we conceptualized excellence as being valued by peers, innovative, open, unexpected, risky; different from elitism, strongly connected to impact, including social and societal impact, strongly connected to frontier research and the role of it; "no big is better". We also conceptualized excellence as quality in relation to a broadly accepted reference framework, but is it possible to agree on criteria against which quality is measured?

Coimbra Group advocates for an integrated approach to all University missions. Hence, we are strongly convinced it is valid to talk also about excellence in education. Our institutions have always performed and committed to offer the highest quality education and it is their duty to do so.

We also addressed the conditions under which academic/scientific excellence can flourish, among others:

- ✓ Sufficient funding
- ✓ Fair and inclusive career development
- ✓ Support to the best research infrastructures (including the small- and medium-size ones)
- ✓ Academic freedom, democracy and peace

We agreed on the need for even more trust in science and the necessity for our universities to communicate better what we do. This also relates to the importance of citizen science and capacity-building in science diplomacy. Finally, the seminar provided a timely opportunity to exchange on strategic issues connected to open research infrastructure and open-data rankings. Coimbra Group is ready to join and bring its own voice to the emerging open European conversation on open research information.

In conclusion, there is still a lot to digest, reflect on and certainly debate. But there is a clear willingness among our members to engage on these complex topics via the Coimbra Group. One should not be surprised, as academia has never been afraid of complexity and Coimbra Group remains more than ever committed to its motto “a tradition of innovation”!

We are looking forward to further collective achievements in 2024. On behalf of the whole Executive Board and Office, we wish you all a most relaxing and enjoyable holiday season and all the best for the New Year.

UK association to Horizon Europe - a win for global research

Peter Mathieson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh

Karen O'Brien, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University

Evelyn Welch, Vice-Chancellor, University of Bristol

[Link to online version](#)

The announcement, on 7 September 2023, that the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Commission had reached an [agreement](#) on UK association to Horizon Europe has rightly been met with a sigh of relief and the warmest of welcomes across the research-intensive university sector. We are delighted that we finally have the breakthrough that we have all been working so hard to achieve.

This agreement has now also received the [approval of the Council of the European Union](#) which on 15 November gave its green light to the UK participation in Horizon Europe without any discussion. The last remaining step to formalise the agreement is for the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Participation in Union programmes to adopt a decision on the current EU R&I Framework Programme. This is expected to happen before the end of this year.

As of 1 January 2024, researchers and organisations in the UK will be able to participate in Horizon Europe on equal terms with their counterparts in the EU member states.

Right from the start, the Coimbra Group has been united in arguing that UK association to Horizon Europe is the best route to maintaining and developing academic cooperation between the UK and the rest of the continent, post-Brexit. This was obvious in 2016, and it remains true in 2023. We are very grateful for all of the lobbying by the Coimbra Group and others to secure this outcome.

Incentivising our scientists to work together, irrespective of borders, is in everyone's interests and we will spare no effort in making the UK association to Horizon Europe a success. This deal is a true win-win for the UK and for Europe more generally, and it will yield wider global benefits.

The Framework Programmes supported through the European Commission have been the basis of scientific collaboration for over thirty years, supporting ground-breaking research and achieving major successes in such fields as the early detection of ovarian cancer and the development of clean energy networks. Like the previous programmes, Horizon Europe will not only enable us to tackle global challenges and deliver transformative blue-skies research and innovation. It will also support the development of staff and build capacity to deliver world-changing research and impact for partners around the globe.

While Bristol has continued to see ERC success since Brexit, association gives all of our researchers the confidence in the long-term nature of the networks they are creating in AI and Health. For Durham, as demonstrated by our role in a €11m Horizon Europe Cluster 5 project to develop an integrated energy system which will remove dependence on fossil fuels, association will give renewed vigour to current and future cooperation with Europe. At Edinburgh, our Horizon Europe Revitalising Collaboration seed

fund scheme will enable our researchers to nurture European collaborations with the goal of developing Horizon Europe collaborative funding applications especially for Pillar 2.

We need now to seize these opportunities. That means coordinating communications about UK association to give researchers certainty about what Horizon Europe has to offer and confidence to collaborate across borders. Here it will be particularly important to foster links between our researchers, and in particular our early career researchers, as they address the long-term challenges affecting our societies. We also recognise that there is more to be done to encourage stronger educational collaborations between the UK and the EU including but not limited to the return of access to Erasmus Plus for UK universities. The Coimbra Group has an important role to play in this respect.

The Coimbra Group embodies our shared values, common interests, and combined research and educational excellence. These qualities lay at the heart of the case we made together for UK association to Horizon Europe. However, we must recognise that association is simply a means to an end. That end is achieving major research goals, thereby securing a win for global research, and creating further opportunities for our students, staff and partners.

Current university rankings are not consistent with Open Science

Henk Kummeling, Rector Magnificus, Utrecht University

[Link to online version](#)

You may have heard: Utrecht University (UU) is not included in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking 2024. THE ranks universities worldwide on academic performance and reputation. Last year, UU came in 66th position in the ranking. Why is Utrecht University not included this year?

UU chose not to submit data. A very conscious choice: rankings put too much emphasis on comparison and mutual competition, while we want to focus on collaboration and Open Science. At Utrecht University, we believe it is impossible to capture the quality of all educational and research programmes in one rating. Universities differ in size, budget and ambitions. We excel in very different areas. And it is precisely those differences that make us collectively worthwhile. Those same differences ensure that we like to join forces and collaborate with each other. Moreover, research shows that the methods and data used by the institutions responsible for creating rankings, especially the so-called league table rankings, are often questionable. Only last week, Chris Brink, former vice-chancellor of Newcastle University, illustrated this in [his article](#) in University World News.

As mentioned, inter- and multi-disciplinary collaboration and Open Science are UU's guiding principles. I previously wrote about our ambitions in the December 2021 edition of this newsletter (see more in Frank Miedema's open access book, *Open Science: the Very Idea* (2021), available [here](#)).

Together with many other Coimbra Group members we are part of an international movement to resist the dominance of the current rankings, for example through [More than Our Rank](#) and COARA. Other Dutch universities are also debating participation in rankings, jointly they have published a [statement](#) on the effects of ranking universities and how to deal with these effects. We are not an opponent of rankings in general. They can be helpful as a benchmark to monitor one's own development. But in order to be helpful rankings must be based on criteria and parameters that are transparent, verifiable and relevant to our own ambitions.

Over the last couple of weeks Utrecht University received many supportive responses from around the world. To some extent we are surprised by how often we are invited to clarify our reasons. University rankings have been controversial for decades. It is widely known that they are not consistent with Open Science. But universities are hesitant when it comes to no longer actively contributing to these rankings.

Yes, there is also concern. Especially among our international students and staff who may have come to Utrecht because of our position in the rankings. For some of them their future careers may somehow depend on the rank of 'their' university. Because that is the perverse effect that these rankings have caused: government agencies, employers, supervisory boards, etc. have come to value them as a simple way to assess excellence down to the level of individual students, teachers and researchers. Although it is tempting and easy to rely on simple figures for complex assessments, it is of course nonsense, given all the flaws entailed by these rankings.

As true academics we urge future students and PhDs to judge universities on the real quality of education and research, on their innovative potential, on the quality of their inspiring staff.

This is why we advise students to compare the content and nature of degree programmes. There are many tools available to do so responsibly. And we advise researchers and potential partners to continue considering the strength of our research programmes, our academic culture and working conditions.

In short: we expect people to choose to study at, work at, or collaborate with UU or any other university based on content and real quality. And definitely not on a position in a ranking. It would of course be very helpful if universities would join ranks by collectively passing on some of the current rankings and contributing to insightful overviews that give a better picture of our different qualities.

2023-2024: Coimbra Group priorities in a year of changes and high expectations

Coimbra Group Executive Board

[Link to the online version](#)

In the lead up to the new academic year, the members of the Executive Board met in Turku where EU and worldwide experts debated the future of Europe at the city's renowned annual "[Europe Forum](#)". The board reflected on new initiatives and strategic priorities for the Coimbra Group (CG) in 2023-2024. We looked back to the past year, and forward to ongoing EU policy developments that are expected to impact on our universities. We tried to focus on CG's identity and approach to defining the specific contribution we can commit to provide.

With the European elections (6-9 June 2024) just around the corner, the academic year 2023-2024 will undoubtedly bring about change and some uncertainties. We would like to see the challenges at stake for universities – hence for the future of our societies as a whole – prioritised in the upcoming electoral debates and programmes.

September saw the following two important new appointments:

- ✓ Iliana Ivanova [was appointed](#) as new European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.
- ✓ Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen [took over](#) as the new Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture at the European Commission.

We very much look forward to the opportunity to meeting both of them very soon and we hope to develop the same level of trust and engagement as was the case with their predecessors.

Very importantly for all our communities, a political agreement was eventually reached towards the association of the United Kingdom (UK) to Horizon Europe and Copernicus, a [highly welcomed decision](#). We firmly believe that these possibilities for enhanced cooperation across the Channel will strengthen both programmes. And it is our hope that UK universities one day get reintegrated back into the Erasmus+ programme as well.

The political changes in the European Parliament and European Commission next year will occur amidst intense negotiations on the next EU multi-annual financial framework (MFF 2028-2034) and parallel discussions on the shape of the future funding instruments, Erasmus+ and the next framework programme for research and innovation (FP10). By leveraging the power and reach of the Coimbra Group, it is our priority to inform and convince EU policymakers to commit to bold decisions for education and research.

In 2023-2024 we will also further internally reflect on the evaluation of the potential evolution of the network, preparing for celebrations of CG's 40th anniversary in the year 2025.

Considering this analysis and after consultation with the Rectors' Advisory Group, it was agreed that the Executive Board will focus this year on three sets of priorities:

Play the role of a scientific scene-setter of themes and articulate a solid vision in societal engagement and open science

Two topics come to the fore when assessing CG's own identity and strengths:

- ✓ **Civic and societal engagement:** with the adoption of the Poitiers Declaration back in 2016, CG has been a pioneer of emphasizing the role of the University in the City. In the context of the European elections, CG will continue to foster activities that contribute to strengthen universities' engagement with society and universities' social responsibility, with the view to promote a more holistic approach of excellence in higher education.
- ✓ **Open Science:** we want CG to play an active role in shaping the emerging understanding of 'excellence' in the context of Universities and Open Science. The High-Level Seminar on Research Policy that we are organising on 13-14 November in Brussels is an important first step in this area.

Help shaping and pioneering EU policies that are relevant for its members:

Coimbra Group will continue to intensify its presence and influence in the following European policy-making processes and initiatives, as well as its contribution to the development of the following programmes:

–**EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF)**

–**European Education Area (EEA)**

–**European Research Area (ERA):** continuation of the implementation of the eight ERA Policy Actions to which CG has committed

–**European Strategy for Universities**

–**European Universities Initiative**

–**Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe**

–**Research Careers and Research Assessment:** participation in the new CoARA Working Group on Multilingualism and Linguistic Biases.

–**Impact of Brexit** on academic and scientific cooperation with the UK and further efforts on **strengthening cooperation with Switzerland**

–**International cooperation:** increased engagement of CG Development Cooperation and Latin America Working Groups in bi-regional policy dialogues.

Drive CG's internal development through new initiatives:

- ✓ We aim to **deepen our connection to CG members and the professional communities** we represent. In that respect, 2023-2024 will see the launch of two pilot calls for the allocation of targeted funding to Coimbra Group Working Groups. This new initiative will also fulfil the longstanding objective to enhance inter-WGs cooperation.

- ✓ We will provide space for continuing the discussions on the **future of the network** initiated at the General Assembly in Cologne in June 2023. The aim is to reach a consensus on our collective vision ahead of the celebrations of CG's 40th anniversary in 2025. This year we will also make proposals about membership enlargement.

As we conclude this editorial, we have special thoughts for the Ukrainian academic and student community who are beginning the first semester of 2023-2024 under conditions of war and conflict for the second consecutive year, and we would like to extend our best wishes to all those who have suffered through this terrible time.

To all colleagues and friends, and to all our readers, we wish you the best for this academic year and we look forward to seeing you around at one of the many [Coimbra Group's meetings and events](#) taking place these coming months.

What does Nicolaus Copernicus teach us?

Rector Jacek Popiel, Jagiellonian University in Krakow

[Link to the online version](#)

The current year has been declared the Year of Nicolaus Copernicus in Poland. This decision was made to honour the 550th anniversary of birth of a figure thoroughly deserving recognition for science, whose achievements undoubtedly transcended the horizons of his own era.

A special place in the calendar of events accompanying the celebration of this jubilee is reserved for the World Copernican Congress, an international scientific event organized by three Polish universities: Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. I say “international”, because scientists from almost every corner of the globe, representing leading scientific and academic institutions from Australia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and Italy, have chosen to pay tribute by their presence.

Scheduled for almost the entire year of 2023, the [World Copernican Congress](#) (the “Krakow” part took place between May 24 and 26) represents an attempt to encompass Nicolaus Copernicus’ heterogeneous and multidisciplinary work from the broadest possible perspective. It allows for the exploration of themes and aspects beyond just the astronomical, such as economic, social, philosophical, historical, literary, and artistic dimensions.

However, the World Copernican Congress primarily serves as a reminder of the never-fading relevance of Nicolaus Copernicus’ original and timeless ideas. Simultaneously, it highlights that groundbreaking concepts leading to paradigmatic shifts and transformations in the realm of science often result from both intellectual independence and genius (understood as a particular mental disposition) as well as from the specific qualities of individuals: their boldness, tenacity, non-conformity, and even audacious courage. Only such a personality is capable of overcoming social and environmental ostracism. As history shows in numerous scientific cases, discoveries challenging established beliefs can sometimes subject their authors and continuators to painful persecutions.

I have absolutely no doubt that Copernicus, confined to his private workshop atop a tower in the picturesque seaside town of Frombork, would never have presented his monumental, groundbreaking work “*De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*” to the world if he had lacked the courage of a true scientist. Moreover, he probably would not have done so, had he not travelled across late-Renaissance Europe (studying at the University of Krakow, the University of Bologna and the University of Padua – all three Coimbra Group Universities, and obtaining doctorate at the University of Ferrara), and had he not possessed a unique gifted mind, delving into medicine, economics, philosophy, and military art parallel with his pursuits of astronomy.

After so many years, it is worth exploring the mysteries of Nicolaus Copernicus unique biography to find the origins of ideas – ideas that were considered heretical by many of his contemporaries – which changed the order of the world forever.

The Swedish presidency and academic freedom

Vice-Chancellor Anders Hagfeldt, Uppsala University

[Link to the online version](#)

The Swedish EU presidency can probably be best described as efficient and unglamorous. Run on a shoestring budget, with most meetings located at Arlanda airport, it focused on making progress on EU legislation (migration, data, AI, climate) — and quite successfully so. In the areas of research and education, where there was no legislation in the pipeline, the Presidency picked up on strategic, forward-looking discussions. If there were a main *problematique* to these discussions, it was openness, or rather the calibration of Europe's openness to the world.

Openness is top of my mind as a rector, as it touches upon the fundamental issues of academic freedom and academic responsibility. Let me illustrate by considering the Presidency's achievements.

At their meeting on 23 May, EU research ministers staked out the agenda on Open Publishing, calling for *immediate and unrestricted open access in publishing research involving public funds*. The Lund Declaration, adopted on 20 June, reaffirmed the *importance of Open Science practices in the research process and data infrastructures*. Rightly so!

Research ministers also held the first ever EU debate on *responsible internationalization*, launching the slogan: *As open as possible, as secure as necessary*. In the debate, *knowledge security* featured prominently, illustrated by host of security-driven restrictions planned or implemented in different member states. On 23 June, the European Commission threw its weight behind this agenda; in its communication on Economic Security, it talks about *knowledge leakage* and the particular need to control knowledge relating to security critical technology.

Now the tension in this agenda is obvious: if we are to publish everything openly there is bound to be "leakage", whatever that means. However, we also need to acknowledge that there are conflicting aims that need managing. After all, as academic leaders, we balance conflicting aims every day, for instance by promoting international mobility while simultaneously seeking to reduce our carbon footprint. Balancing openness against security is no different, but it requires both vigilance and strategy.

We need to be particularly vigilant regarding *how* openness is calibrated. On substance, any new measure needs to be proportional, and not go beyond what is required for the stated aims, while respecting academic freedom. On procedure, any new measures needs to be introduced in dialogue, acknowledging the principle of academic responsibility. Political interference in academic freedom and academic responsibility is not acceptable.

Our longer-term strategy needs to be to educate policy-makers. Few deny the point and value of expanding the boundaries of human knowledge. However, not many understand the efforts and conditions required to do so effectively. For instance, despite its tremendously successful track-record, the European Research Council feels under constant attack by those that do not understand the point of it being independent.

As educators we need the energy and courage to consistently restate the value of basic research, while also mobilizing support from others beyond the academic community. The EU is a hugely important platform for this endeavor. We rely on the Coimbra Group and others to help us mobilize and express the need and requirements for basic research.

Ceterum censeo: I want to thank the Coimbra Group for its firm [reaction](#) to the Swedish government's proposal to shorten the mandate of university board members. This issue is still not resolved, and I maintain the view that the change is misguided and ineffective.

Why we need to think globally

Rector Axel Freimuth, University of Cologne

[Link to the online version](#)

Dear Friends and Colleagues of the Coimbra Group,

On behalf of the rectorate of the University of Cologne, I would like to thank you for attending the 2023 Annual Conference in Cologne.

The participants of two major conferences – in addition to the Coimbra Group Annual Meeting, the European Conference for African Studies took place in Cologne - transformed Albertus-Magnus-Platz and the buildings around it into a lively conference center. The conferences also radiated far out into the city: a wide variety of locations in Cologne were included, from the Schauspielhaus alternative quarter in Schanzenstraße, to the Historic City Hall, to the rooftop bar of the LVR Tower. It was a great opportunity for intellectual exchange, but also to establish new contacts, catch up with long-time good friends, and to intensify links with partner universities from all over Europe.

Global responsibility and the cooperation with partners in Africa is an important part of the University of Cologne's profile. Accordingly, we gladly seized the opportunity presented by the parallel meeting of the European Conference on African Studies at our university. Under the title "'Africa meets Europe' – Academic Cooperation for a Sustainable Global Future", the public conference in the framework of our Coimbra Group Annual Meeting formed an interesting thematic focus beyond our discussions on "European" topics in the area of higher education.

A sustainable global future is only possible if all academic forces are bundled under the heading of global responsibility and work together at eye level on the world's major problems. Global responsibility links research, teaching, and internationalization with the transfer of knowledge and scientific methods to our local, regional and global networks and – with a view to the UN Sustainable Development Goals – contributes to global transformation and the strengthening of science worldwide.

Four years ago, in 2019, the University of Cologne celebrated the 100th anniversary of its re-foundation. After the 'old' university had been closed in the 18th century, its re-foundation 1919 was an initiative of the citizens of Cologne. On this occasion, the mayor of Cologne, and future German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, gave a speech in which he defined it as a key mission of the 'new' University of Cologne "to show that between all European peoples there is after all much more in common than in separation."

Crises such as Brexit, or most recently the war in Ukraine, make us painfully aware that we need to make further efforts to achieve this goal. And it is clear that we cannot just focus on dismantling borders within Europe – if that means erecting new borders on the edges of Europe. Rather, we need to think globally, and put Adenauer's words in perspective: We have so much more in common with the peoples of Africa, Asia, America and Australia, than sets us apart. Cooperation is the best way to solve problems that affect us all together. I am absolutely convinced that our activities within the framework of the Coimbra Group are decisive steps on this path.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and I wish you some nice summer holidays.

Valuing student voice, engagement and partnership

President Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, University of Galway

[Link to the online version](#)

When we at University of Galway launched our Strategic Plan [Shared Vision, Shaped by Values](#) in early 2020, we committed to 'being here for our students, our society and our planet'. As President of University of Galway, who had been a student here in the 1980s and who throughout my academic career values an engagement with students, this was important to me as I know it was to many of my colleagues. We thought it worth articulating, arising out of our commitment to be a university 'for the public good'.

It's fair to say that the years of Covid that followed tested perceptions of that determination as we often needed to make decisions that we thought were in the interests of our students and their welfare – but not all our students always agreed.

When I became President of University of Galway, the first thing I did was to meet the then President of our Students' Union (SU) in his office as a symbol of my commitment to students and to going to them, to their place. Since then, I have endeavoured to meet each Students' Union President in their place on their first day to discuss their agenda for their year in office with them. In 2022, when I met with our current SU President, Sai Gujulla, one of the items we discussed was the possibility of a partnership agreement between our University and our students. There were good working models in other universities and we both felt it would be a statement of intent to signal a commitment to working together for the benefit of our students.

Out of that came [the agreement that he and I signed in April 2023](#), an approach which I believe might be of interest to other Coimbra Group member institutions. The purpose of the agreement is to 'enhance the ongoing working relationship between the University and the Students' Union based on the values of openness and respect, in a spirit of collaboration and positive intent, and with meaningful results that deliver mutual benefit for the university community we serve'. It covers several areas of meaningful engagement in particular committing to **Student-Centred Decision-Making** and **Student Participation and Engagement**: 'In articulating specific goals in these areas, together we are emphasising the importance of – and the value we place on – the student voice, student engagement and student partnership in the ongoing evolution and development of our university'.

Student-Centred Decision-Making affirms the important and mutual benefit of having a more student-centred approach to relevant university activities. It includes inter alia a commitment to reviewing membership of relevant university decision-making committees to ensure appropriate student representation and voice is achieved. It also commits to gathering and, most importantly, acting on student feedback, through surveys and 'real-time feedback' but also working with University of Galway 100, a sample of 100 of our students with whom we do in-depth focus groups on issues of interest, and the SU Council to tap into the collective wisdom of students and to 'sense-check' various initiatives.

Student Participation and Engagement affirms the important and mutual benefit of increased student participation and engagement in relevant university activities, including collaboration on events and campaigns and achieving university strategies and policies together.

The agreement was noted with approval by our Governing Authority as a positive step in student engagement. Interestingly, approval was not unanimous on social media or in the local media. One columnist in the local press commented that the agreement ‘will be greeted with dismay by anyone connected to the college that once had a proud record of radical student activism’.

University of Galway counts the current President of Ireland, an activist voice, and former Government Ministers whose policies made for radical change, particularly in education, among our alumni. As a strong supporter of student activism, I am tempted to say that the agreement gives such activism voice – but then I am reminded that students have voice and it is not for me to give it. As somebody who was once a student myself and who came into academic life – as did many of my colleagues – out of an interest in education and student wellbeing, the commitment in this agreement is to listen to that voice, radical or otherwise, and respond to it meaningfully.

It is now incumbent on us to show that engagement works: University of Galway is proud of its radical students – past, present and future – and this agreement is in part to make sure that such voice is not simply blown in the wind.



Coimbra Group Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Final

Turku, Finland
Teatro, Logomo Building
and Livestreamed

Coimbra Group Annual Conference
6 June 2024, 1.30 - 2.00pm EEST

You are cordially invited to attend the Coimbra Group Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition 2024 live final.

Developed by The University of Queensland, the competition consists of effectively explain one's research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience. Competitors are allowed one slide, but no other resources.

An initiative of the Doctoral Studies Working Group, the CG 3MT competition first round took place virtually in April 2024. All CG Universities were invited to participate by submitting the video of the finalist from their own internal competition. 25 PhD candidates (from 25 CG Universities) took part in the first round, from which three finalists were selected (in alphabetical order):

Princess R. Cabotaje (Uppsala University)

"Learning from Nature: Turning air into electricity"

Rachel Hare (University of Bristol)

"The Art of the Swoon"

Silvia Lasnik (University of Graz)

"Dragon-Proof Teaching: Slaying Native-Speakerism"



Based on the decision of the jury, the winner will be awarded by the CG Executive Board a first prize (2,000 EUR), and there will also be two runner-up prizes of 1,500 EUR each.

Results will be announced by the Jury on the same day between 3.00 - 3.30 pm EEST.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Each competitor will be assessed on the judging criteria listed below.

Comprehension and content:

- Presentation provided clear background and significance to the research question.
- Presentation clearly described the research strategy/design and the results/findings of the research.
- Presentation clearly described the conclusions, outcomes, and impact of the research.

Engagement and communication:

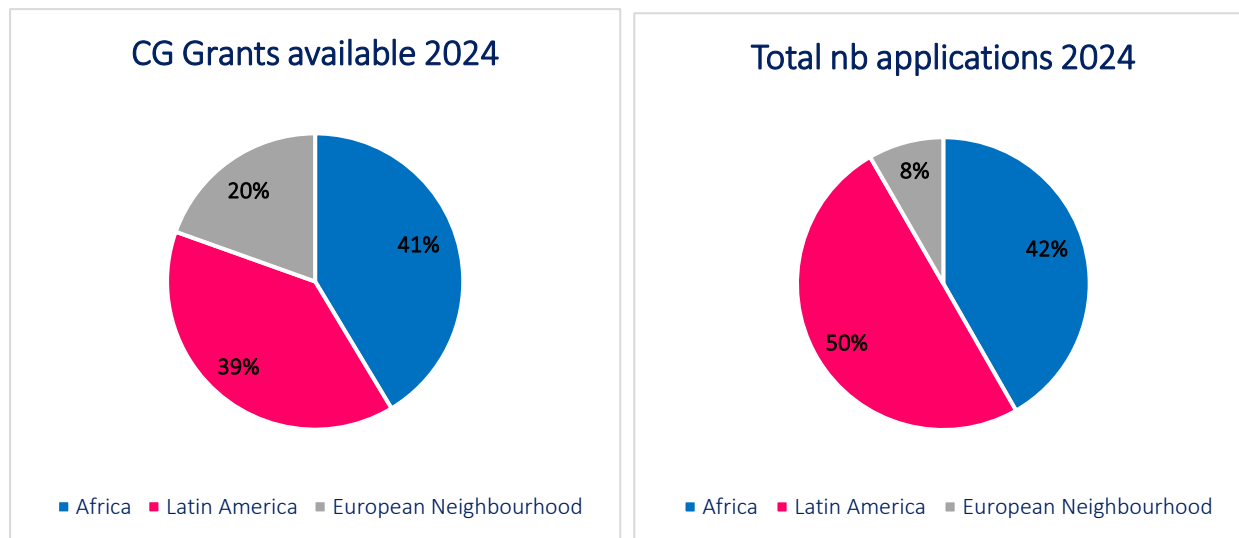
- The oration was delivered clearly, and the language was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.
- The slide was well-defined and enhanced the presentation.
- The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their research and captured and maintained the audience's attention.

Rules and criteria set by the [University of Queensland](#).

Annex 7
Scholarship Programme: Preliminary figures 2024 and Trends 2014-2024

Below are two charts displaying the **geographic distribution** of the grants made available by CG universities under the 2024 Scholarship Programme, and of the applications received from international young researchers and professors within the deadline of 5 April 2024:

Figures 1-2: Geographical distribution of Coimbra Group grants available in 2024



In continuation is a series of tables providing an **overview of the yearly numbers of CG participating Universities, grants available, and applications received for the last decade (2014-2024)**.

There are four tables: one for all three geographical programmes together, one for the programme for Sub-Saharan Africa, one for the programme for European Neighbouring countries, and one for the programme for Latin America.

Table 1: Total number of available grants and applications received for all three programmes together (2014-2024)

	Overview of the three scholarship programmes										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Grants available (real nb awarded)	60	64	60	51	60	60 +7	72 +2	75	79 +9	90 -16	87 (-3%)
Applications	526	523	676	751	651	831	642	911	710	879	707 (-19.5%)

Table 2: Total number of available grants and applications received for the programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (2014-2024)

	Sub-Saharan Africa										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023
CG Univs	10	11	13	11	12	12	14	15	16	17	18 (+6%)
Grants available	19	19	20	17	21	23	30	27	31	43	Up to 36 (-16%)
Total nb applications	76	106	111	89	185	238	267	251	264	398	295 (-26%)
Eligible applications	57	94	91	73	130	172	190	172	214	289	197 (-32%)

Table 3: Total number of available grants and applications received for the programme for European Neighbouring countries (2014-2024)

	European Neighbourhood										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023
CG Univs	11	12	9	8	9	9	10	11	10	11	12 (+9%)
Grants available	16	20	16	12	14	14	16	17	16	17	17 (+6%)
Total nb applications	116	154	102	149	70	166	98	120	82	81	59 (-27%)
Eligible applications	90	123	89	127	60	133	68	91	68	64	46 (-28%)

Table 4: Total number of available grants and applications received for the programme for Latin America (2014-2024)

	Latin America										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
CG Univs	14	14	14	12	12	12	13	15	15	15	16 (+7%)
Grants available	26	25	24	22	25	23	26	31	32	30	34 (+13%)
Total nb applications	334	263	463	513	396	427	277	540	364	400	353 (-12%)
Eligible applications	304	245	410	481	352	390	251	478	327	364	317 (-13%)