

CHARM-EU



DAYS:

How can the
European Universities
Initiative contribute to supporting
the European Green Deal?



#CHARMEUDays2020
#EUGreenDeal
#CHARMEUGreenDeal

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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

Erasmus College Dublin

Utrecht University

UNIVERSITÉ DE
LORRAINE

UNIVERSITÉ DE
NANTES



A Tradition of Innovation

Perspectives from the Coimbra Group of Universities

Cláudia Cavadas (University of Coimbra)
Member of the Coimbra Group Executive Board

Founded in 1985



Association of **long-established European multidisciplinary universities of high international standard.**

- >1,4 M students
- >232 000 staff (teaching, research, admin.)
- **Students Erasmus+ mobility to/from CG universities: >16% of all Erasmus+ students in Europe¹**
- **Multi-billion € total annual Research budget**

Coimbra Group is **committed** to create special academic and cultural ties in order to **promote**

internationalisation

**academic
collaboration**

**excellence in
learning & research**

service to society.

To influence European higher education and research policies

To develop best practices through mutual exchange of experience.



COIMBRA GROUP: 41 MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

24 countries

Aarhus (DK)

Barcelona (ES)

Bergen (NO)

Bologna (IT)

Bristol (UK)

Budapest (HU)

Coimbra (PT)

Dublin (IE)

Durham (UK)

Edinburgh (UK)

Galway (IE)

Genève (CH)

Göttingen (DE)

Granada (ES)

Graz (AT)

Groningen (NL)

Heidelberg (DE)

Iași (RO)

Istanbul (TR)

Jena (DE)

Köln (DE)

Kraków (PL)

Leiden (NL)

Leuven (BE)

Louvain (BE)

Montpellier (FR)

Montpellier 3 (FR)

Padova (IT)

Pavia (IT)

Poitiers (FR)

Prague (CZ)

St. Petersburg (RU)

Salamanca (SP)

Siena (IT)

Tartu (EE)

Turku (FI)

Uppsala (SE)

Utrecht (NL)

Vilnius (LT)

Würzburg (DE)

Åbo (FI)



COIMBRA GROUP: **32** MEMBERS OFFICIALLY INVOLVED IN **ALLIANCES OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES**

Aarhus (DK)

Barcelona (ES)

Bergen (NO)

Bologna (IT)

Budapest (HU)

Coimbra (PT)

Dublin (IE)

Edinburgh (UK)

Galway (IE)

Göttingen (DE)

Granada (ES)

Graz (AT)

Groningen (NL)

Heidelberg (DE)

Iași (RO)

Jena (DE)

Köln (DE)

Kraków (PL)

Leiden (NL)

Leuven (BE)

Louvain (BE)

Montpellier (FR)

Padova (IT)

Pavia (IT)

Poitiers (FR)

Prague (CZ)

Salamanca (SP)

Tartu (EE)

Turku (FI)

Uppsala (SE)

Utrecht (NL)

Vilnius (LT)

COIMBRA GROUP: 8 ALLIANCES OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES WITH COIMBRA GROUP MEMBERS

With the Coimbra Group as Associated Partner:

CHARM-EU



Barcelona (ES)
Budapest (HU)
Dublin (IE)
Montpellier (FR)
Utrecht (NL)



Coimbra (PT)
Iași (RO)
Jena (DE)
Pavia (IT)
Poitiers (FR)
Salamanca (ES)
Turku (FI)

ar^ous
European University Alliance

Bergen (NO)
Granada (ES)
Graz (AT)
Padova (IT)
Vilnius (LT)

ENLIGHT

Galway (IE)
Göttingen (DE)
Groningen (NL)
Tartu (EE)
Uppsala (SE)

UNA EUROPA
UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE EUROPE

Bologna (IT)
Edinburgh (UK)
Kraków (PL)
KU Leuven (BE)

Circle U.
European University Alliance

Aarhus (DK)
Louvain (BE)

4eu+

Heidelberg (DE)
Prague (CZ)

**euni
well**

Cologne (DE)
Leiden (NL)

10 June 2020

Open Session on the
European Universities
Alliances

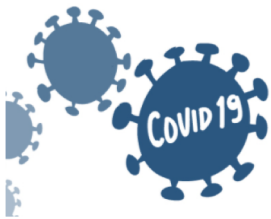
Coimbra Group Webinar

Key Takeaways

(I) EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE STRENGTHS SUPPORTING EGD



European Universities: **Real game-changers** in the field of European and international knowledge.



European Universities structure has proved to provide the **right framework for universities to address global challenges** hence those tackled by the Green Deal, as shown by the ways they have been responding to the COVID-19 crisis.



European Universities offer the opportunity to develop and offer **challenge-based curricula and degrees** directly connected to real-world challenges.

HOW CAN THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTE TO SUPPORTING THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL?

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Key Takeaways

(II) EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE STRENGTHS SUPPORTING EGD



The Covid-19 crisis has spotlighted the **role and value of universities in their ecosystems** -> importance of the **City-University cooperation** (as promoted by the *“Poitiers Declaration”* launched in 2016 by the Coimbra Group) for achieving the EU Green Deal



Citizens involvement in research + the way universities communicate science to society = Key elements in the university-society partnership (Citizen Science; Public engagement)



Alliances are expected to **develop strong and new types of synergies and partnerships** with public and private stakeholders

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(III) EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE STRENGTHS SUPPORTING EGD



Research and education components of Alliances are

inseparable - A strong added-value/success factor when it comes to engage with the Commission's environmental agenda both at short and long-term (Agenda 2030 and making Europe climate neutral by 2050).



Strong capacity for **transnational data-sharing**

Transdisciplinary

Clear focus of European Universities' Alliances on
multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary and **international** research



3 major assets to support the EU Green Deal

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CHALLENGES/RISKS OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES' CAPACITY TO EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU GREEN DEAL

Different Governance models within the alliances

The **financial sustainability** of the European Universities remains a major challenge (obstacle?); *The Alliances will not be sustainable only on the basis of calls for proposals (Erasmus+, FP9, etc.)*

Long-term funding support is absolutely needed from the European Commission and the Member States.



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OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE EU GREEN DEAL: ROLE OF COIMBRA GROUP

Structured cooperation among Alliances would be very useful and beneficial to all parties to contribute to EGD

*building on its culture of collegiality, the **Coimbra Group** has positioned itself, since the very launch of the European Universities Initiative, as **a platform for structured dialogue, cooperation and dissemination to the benefit of all its members** (in or out an Alliance) hence adding cohesion.*



SDGs: a key strategic priority for Coimbra Group in the academic year 2020/2021

Continued promotion of the **Poitiers Declaration**

2021: New series of events and policy debates:

Coimbra Group Annual Conference

Charles University in Prague, 16-18 June 2021

Public Conference debate on “**Sustainable Universities in the 21st century**” (SDG 16)

High-Level Seminar on Research Policy “The Coimbra Group meets the United Nations” (Geneva, 21-22 October 2021)

Entirely focused on how the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda drive/influence University research and *vice-versa*.

Leave No One Behind



**Thank you for your
attention !**



A Tradition of Innovation

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