Follow the guide of this annual report and you will not need a canvas

This road map leads you directly to the present & the future of the Compostela Group of Universities

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The Compostela Group of Universities took its first steeps in 1994. During its growth, the CGU was joined by other pilgrims coming from more than 60 worldwide universities. By means of this crossroads, our no-profit international association of Higher Education became one of the largest networks in Europe.
We are a group,
we are a community
At the General Assembly in Pécs we celebrate together with our hosts the Jubilee of 650 years since the foundation of the university. The anniversary symbolizes the role of universities in Europe. Our Group founded on the cultural ideas of the Way of St James that was one of the factors uniting our continent.

The Compostela Group of Universities refers in its activities to the fundamental ideas of collaboration, freedom and honesty. Thus, the actions of our network go beyond the daily work of universities, whereby we offer links to partner universities in different projects, mainly funded by the European Union, but also our own like Stella, Video Contest, Research Pitches. This year, the University of Regensburg invited students to the First Compostela Group Students Workshop ‘The Way of Saint James: European Identity and Global Appeal’.

The Compostela Group is endeavouring to rise to the challenges of contemporary world through our Declaration on Promotion of Social Capital, Health and Development adopted in 2014, the agreements signed with organisations like Scholars at Risk and Helsinki-España-University Network, where our representatives should play an important role.

As a Group we look forward to the closer collaboration across the Atlantic with several universities of America, where we plan to organise one of the CGU meetings.

There was an important change in the Executive Committee, Prof. Dr. Mª Teresa Carballeira Rivera, accepted the nomination to the position of the Executive Secretary and already showed her energy, proposing several projects for the coming years. I would like to express my appreciation to Prof. Dr. Isabel Lirola Delgado, former Executive Secretary, for her devotion to the Group for many years.

Enjoy this annual report of the Compostela Group of Universities!
The Compostela Group of Universities is an important network for Karlstad University, providing us with opportunities, not only as a successful international network for exchanges, but also for sharing ideas, experiences and participating in valuable initiatives, which strengthen and support the international activities at our university.

I feel that the Compostela Group has a lot to offer for a progressive future of internationalisation in Higher Education. It not only brings together universities from across different continents, while granting a whole range of benefits to its members, but over the years it has evolved to become a venue for a very efficient academic and inter-cultural exchange in a modern era of internationalised Higher Education.

Our participation in the CGU has allowed us not only to increase the range of student, faculty, and staff exchanges, but also to support comprehensive Internationalisation-at-Home initiatives on campus, to develop new strategic bilateral relationships, and to access EU-funded projects.

Sometimes, regarding students, I’m inclined to think as Henry Ward Beecher: “We should not judge people by their peak of excellence; but by the distance they have travelled from the point where they started”.

The CGU network fosters genuine openness both geographically and in types of institutions; it thus welcomes laying a broad foundation for global collaboration. That is what makes it unique and appealing.

That is part of the wealth of belonging to the Compostela Group of Universities: You discover that your aspirations are universal aspirations, that you’re not lonely and isolated in your endeavours, that you belong to a community of ‘doers’.
Having had the privilege of seeing the Compostela Group emerge from Manuel Garabal’s idea into one of the largest and most diverse university groupings in Europe and the world, I am very optimistic about its future. The reason is that the success of the CGU is carried by the enthusiasm of many people, keen to improve and innovate higher education in an international context. CGU enables that by facilitating collaboration between the million-plus staff and students at our many member institutions.

The University of Santiago de Compostela has walked along with the Compostela Group of Universities since its birth. It saw it grow without losing its values, fostering cooperation and inclusivity in Higher Education through the years. Sharing those common values, the University of Santiago de Compostela has always remained a constant support for the CGU.

We have learned, by walking through this global scenario of diversity, that we wanted to be an actor that built bridges of cooperation between the players involved in Higher Education. Only by promoting dialogue would the Compostela Group of Universities achieve its goal of improving Higher Education.

Networks of universities are probably the best places in the world to meet people who — quite naturally — share the same values and who have, certainly due to their educational history, the very same ‘human’ background even if they come, like in the CGU, from several continents with different cultures. To be a part of this community is without any doubt a great privilege and the most rewarding aspect of our work.
We asked the universities that joined the Compostela Group of Universities during the last year to share with us their experience. Read what two of them have to say!

**Being part of the Compostela Group of Universities meant for Rey Juan Carlos University a way of strengthening the bonds in terms of internationalisation with the member universities of the network. We have been able to participate in the continuous activities of the CGU and to establish new lines of cooperation with the universities belonging to this active network, which constitutes a distinct added value to the current activities of Universidad Rey Juan Carlos.**

Javier Ramos, Rector Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

**The UPC is honoured to be part of the Compostela Group of Universities, which represents the path that bonds us, the way that connects us, ‘el camino’ that allows us to design and build a better world for future generations. Along this way we share a vision and a future filled with hope, and we long for every step uniting our efforts to guarantee the achievement of every objective that we outlined.**

Edward Roekaert, Rector Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas
Pilgrims on our network
Composed by representatives of full members of the Compostela Group of Universities.

President of the CGU

Marek Kęgolewski
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (Poland)

Inmaculada Fortanet. Vice-president
Universitat Jaume I, Castelló (Spain)

Slavomir Rudenko. Treasurer
Pan-European University (Slovak Republic)

Mª Teresa Carballeira Rivera. Executive Secretary
University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Executive Committee

Jan Pavlik
Masaryk University, Brno

Gyula Zeller
University of Pécs (Hungary)

Jean Pierre Roose. Honorary member
Juan Francisco García Marín
University of Leon

Juan M. Viaño Rey. Permanent member
University of Santiago de Compostela

Manuel Freire Garabal
University of Santiago de Compostela

Maurits van Rooijen. Nominal member
London School of Business and Finance

Thomas Martin Buntru
University of Monterrey

General Council

Composed by representatives of full members of the Compostela Group of Universities.
The Compostela Group of Universities brings together 68 members from 61 different countries, sharing the path to knowledge and the goal of improving Higher Education for a better society.

University Kore di Enna
Philips-Universität Marburg
Masaryk University
University of Oulu
University of Extremadura
University of Leon
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
University of Politécnica de Cartagena
Universidad de Nantes
Ilia State University
University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
University of Santiago de Compostela
University of Valencia
University of Fribourg

University of Perugia
UniNetTUNO
University of Vigo
University of Zaragoza
Karlstad University
Roehampton University

University of Minho
University of Perugia
University of Malta
University of Lódz
University of the Basque Country
University of Almeria
University of the Basque Country

University of Minho
University of Perugia
University of Malta
University of Lódz
University of the Basque Country
University of Almeria
University of the Basque Country

Uniplaces
AKMI Metropolitan College
Erasmus Compostela
Eastern European University Association (EEUA)

QS Asia Quacquarelly Symonds Pte. Ltd.
Members

AMERICA

15 Universities

UNESP-Universidade Estadual Paulista ‘Julio de Mesquita Filho’
University of Lima
Pontifical Catholic University of Perú
Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
University Anáhuac Xalapa
University of Guadalajara
Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC)
University of Arizona
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
National Association of Universities and HEIs (ANUIES)
Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI)
Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)
Scholars at Risk
Delegates play a relevant role by acting as the main executive nexus between the university community and the CGU. They facilitate the flow of information, foster the participation of their universities in the activities and identify new horizons of collaboration.
We like to share
We believe students are the seeds of a better society, therefore improving their education is the key to creating a bright future.

The video ‘It is your choice,’ created by a team of students from the Universitat Jaume I, won first prize at the VI CGU Video Contest. This video illustrates how students can end up getting a good job.

Our Video Contest not only recognises the creativity and originality of our student community, but is also an activity that allows them to work with digital technologies and develop a professional background.

The second prize went to the video ‘Diversity fosters creativity,’ presented by Augustė Paulauskaite from the Kazimieras Simonavicius University, which features the answers of a group of people to the question: what would you like to have in your dream job?
In the past year, 12 students had the opportunity to have a training experience in a Compostela Group of Universities institution and 5 of them received a grant to cover their costs. Until the end of the year, three more will benefit from this programme that aims to increase our community of students’ job prospects. By means of STELLA Junior, students will be able to improve their communication skills in a foreign language, come into contact with a different culture and enhance their professional knowledge.

See what the experience was like for Ángeles González Liste.

The STELLA Junior programme allowed me to have my first professional experience abroad; finding a placement for me in the UNINETTU NO University.

During my traineeship there, I got to know how an online University works; I was also able to participate in the development of some Erasmus+ projects coordinated by the University and focused on learning new technologies and how technologies facilitate education all over the world.

This traineeship was an opportunity to meet people from a variety of countries, not only at the University but also in other conferences and meetings. Undoubtedly, this experience has made me grow up, professionally and personally.
By creating the Research Pitches Contest, we focused on the promotion of research carried out by member universities of the CGU and on pointing out the important contribution of this activity to society.

1. ‘A study of multilingual writing’
   Researcher Maialen Urbieta from the University of the Basque Country explained that her work aims to prove if theories pointing out that bilingualism is positive and bilingual students have a higher score in languages are accurate.

2. ‘Learning English for dyslexic students’
   The research of Lorena Bort of Universitat Jaume I investigation focuses on understanding how the brain works in order to improve the English language acquisition processes for dyslexic students.

3. ‘How to make happiness easier’
   Researcher Maria Josefina Peláez, also from Universitat Jaume I, explains in her pitch how her research would help organisations to increase the happiness of their employees.
The number of administrative staff that participates in STELLA for Staff keeps growing. Since 2002, this programme has given administrative staff the chance to exchange knowledge and best practices on both sides of the Atlantic. This year, 25 participants enjoyed this professional and cultural experience.

Discover the experience of one of the persons who took part on this mobility programme!

Cecilia Wiesse López benefited from a work placement and cross-cultural experience in the Area of Quality and Improvement of Procedures of the University of Santiago de Compostela, thanks to the Stella – Staff Mobility Programme 2017.

“In our University, we are currently trying to improve our certification programs and the model the University of Santiago de Compostela has in place for these programs, combines our previous model and the one we want for the future. I felt that we could learn from their experience. In just three days, I have learned far more than reading information on the Internet. Now my ideas are clearer and this experience has opened new horizons for us.”
The XXI International Prize Compostela – Xunta de Galicia was awarded to Marcelino Oreja Aguirre for his work in favour of setting a path marking the future of Pilgrimage routes as crossroads of European Values.

The jury highlighted the figure of the winner as promoter of Saint James’ Way and human rights, also underlining his leadership in favour of the construction of Europe and Spain’s participation in the Council of Europe.

His professional path lead him to be Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commissioner for Transports and Energy and Secretary General of the Council of Europe. In 1988, the European Foundation declared him European of the Year for Science, Art and Culture.

Marcelino Oreja Aguirre is currently the President of the Institute of European Studies at the University CEU-San Pablo and President of Honor of the Royal Academy of Moral and Political Sciences.
We appreciate our pilgrims, even when we part ways, for that reason we created the Golden Pins Awards. This prize is our way of expressing our recognition to those individuals or institutions that have left their mark on the Compostela Group of Universities.

**Maurits van Rooijen**

This year, the award values the contribution of Maurits van Rooijen, president of the CGU from 2007 to 2015 and founding member, for his faithful commitment and his work to increase the international projection of the Compostela Group of Universities worldwide.

**Isabel Lirola Delgado**

The attribution of this Golden Pin to Isabel Lirola Delgado comes as a sign of appreciation and gratitude, for her contribution to the networks’ fruitful development as the Executive Secretary of the CGU for the past four years.
In 2017, the XXIII General Assembly of the CGU coincided in time with the 650th Jubilee Anniversary of the University of Pécs. The Hungarian university received more than 60 representatives of Higher Education Institutions (HEis), who reflected about the changing roles of universities in an interdependent world.

Nowadays, universities face challenges such as the integration of refugees, and the round table of the IV Compostela Dialogues in Higher Education was a space to analyse the numerous dimensions of migration and the role of universities. Another demanding task for HEis is incorporating new technologies and adapting communication to new generations; both topics will be discussed during the III Compostela Café.
From Pécs to Salamanca

The Eighth Centenary of the University of Salamanca, which will be held throughout 2018, is an international event that has received the status of State Event by the Government of Spain. The reason is that it is the senior university in the Ibero-American context, the oldest in Spain in having uninterrupted activity, and the point of reference for teaching Spanish on a global level.

In this context, the celebration of the General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities supposes for the institution the possibility of emphasising the historical importance of the university throughout the world, and especially among those universities that share a background full of history and a future full of projects.
We walk our path accompanied by...
Agreements

Union means strength, so in our journey we like to walk with associations and Higher Education institutions that share our values in order to build a better world.

The purpose of this framework agreement is to establish the terms for collaboration between the University of Santiago de Compostela and the Compostela Group of Universities, in order to carry out activities or joint action programmes of academic, cultural or research nature.

This understanding is in line with the CGU’s aim to develop collaboration agreements, in the academic, cultural and scientific fields, for both a dynamic use of the cultural heritage centred on the Way of Saint James, understood as a social phenomenon that contributed to the creation of the concept and personality of Europe.

The Compostela Group of Universities has joined the advisory committee of Scholars at Risk (SAR) and has designated Tomasz Nieborak as the primary representative to communicate with this network. CGU and SAR signed, in 2017, a cooperation agreement based on their shared interests in the protection and promotion of academic freedom and Higher Education values. Based on this agreement, the CGU and its member universities can take part in SAR partner network-related activities.

The Compostela Group of Universities acted as an intermediary and its work led to the signing of different agreements. This intermediation led, for example, to subscribing a training and internship agreement between a regional authority and an Italian university. Another exponent is the collaboration established between a Galician university and an international university to foster the mobility of both academic communities.
Projects

The Secretariat of the Compostela Group of Universities has been involved on various projects funded by the European Commission. We wave goodbye to some of them in 2017, like HOUSERASMUS+, CALAOHEE, RUMI and Erasmus

The Compostela Group of Universities is in the consortium of this project and part of the quality control team. EVALUATE aims to assess the impact of telecollaborative learning on student-teachers involved in Initial Teacher Education in the participating European countries and regions.

If you wish to participate virtual exchanges, you can find more info here: www.evaluateproject.eu

CALOHEE (Measuring and Comparing Achievements of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Europe) aims to develop an infrastructure for setting up multi-dimensional tests for each of five subject areas, in order to compare students’ performance in a Europe-wide context. The CGU is a partner on the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board mainly has an advisory and supportive role, in order to keep the project on track and ensure maximum impact.

The objective of HOUSERASMUS+ is providing a comprehensive mapping of the nationally, regionally and locally diverse situation for international student accommodation in chosen European countries. The CGU is part of the management team of the projects, along with ESN, EUF and UNICA.

After analysing the research results, the project team will prepare a recommendation and good practices guidebook. Would you like to take a look at these documents?
Visit: https://houserasmus.eu
The objective of RUMI (Réseau des Universités Marocaines pour l’Enseignement Inclusif) is creating a network of Moroccan universities for inclusive education, which could later be extended to another two countries and cooperate with other European universities and networks. The main role of the CGU within this project is quality management and dissemination of activities.

Discover more at http://rumi-project.org

Erasmus Without Paper focuses on interlinking systems and influencing Higher Education institutions, in order to exchange student information for mobility programmes in a completely electronic way.

Learn more at https://www.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu

Looking for partners?

If you are looking for partners to join your project proposals or you need experts to participate in your project, the Compostela Group can help you. Fill in the form available on our website explaining your needs and send it to grupo.compostela@usc.es. Your offer will be duly disseminated!

Did you know that the inclusion of the Compostela Group itself in your EC project proposal can be an asset?

Dissemination actions, identification of international experts, organisation of workshops, delivery of surveys, coordination of publications, and many other tasks could be run by the CGU within your project proposal. We not only have extensive experience in carrying out all these tasks within the many projects we have successfully worked on, but we are still active and fresh because of our involvement in ongoing initiatives.
Almost 20 participants from 12 CGU member Universities joined experts from Spain, France and Germany at the University of Regensburg (Germany) between 31st July and 5th August, 2017, to participate in the First Compostela Group of Universities’ Students Workshop. The CGU and Universität Regensburg organised this workshop, which combined academic and first-hand experience by covering a part of *el Camino*.

During the first three days, participants and experts reflected on the history of the Way of St. James and the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela’s importance for culture, religion and European Identity. The second part of the workshop gave them the opportunity to explore the border between Germany and the Czech Republic, discovering *el Camino a Santiago* from Pilsen to Regensburg.
Lecture ‘Reflections on the future of Europe’

The Compostela Group of Universities organised, in collaboration with the University of Santiago de Compostela and Xunta de Galicia, the lecture ‘Reflections on the future of Europe’ on 20th June in Santiago de Compostela. The lecture was given by the president of the Institute of European Studies of the CEU-San Pablo University and president of honour of the Royal Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, Marcelino Oreja Aguirre.

7th UNICA-SGROUP-Compostela Group of Universities’ workshop

This joint workshop featured the conference ‘Shaping the social impact of European research’ in Brussels on 6th November 2017. The conference highlighted such themes as the challenges facing European research, the social impact of research through regional engagement of universities or the social responsibility of universities sharing knowledge.

Almost a decade of joint worshops!

Since 2009, three European Universities’ Networks, SGroup, UNICA, and Compostela Group organise annual one-day meetings designed to meet their member institutions’ needs for latest and up-to-date information, good practices, and networking and cooperation opportunities.
Our rucksack is full of...
During the exhibition of NAFSA 2017 in May, the GCU coordinated the first academic pilgrimage. The aim of this action was encouraging visitors, just like the pilgrims who walk the Way of Saint James, to come to the exhibitors of the CGU member universities to complete their ‘pilgrim’s passport’ with six stamps. Pilgrims who completed their passport took part in a prize draw for a trip to Galicia.

This action was organised in collaboration with Xunta de Galicia, the regional government of Galicia.

More than 20 member Universities at NAFSA’s annual conference in Los Angeles represent the CGU and on the evening of 29th May all of them gathered around a table. This dinner was an opportunity to break the ice and start doing some networking before the start of the International Education Exposition.

The COMPOSloto was created to challenge participants at the 2017 General Assembly to show how much they know about the CGU, *el Camino a Santiago* and the University of Pécs.
To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the declaration of *el Camino a Santiago* as the first route designated a European Cultural Itinerary, the Compostela Group of Universities is organising diverse activities of an academic and solidarity nature. Activities to enhance the important role played by *el Camino* in the construction of Europe and its citizenship. To highlight the significance of its cultural and solidarity heritage.

The Compostela Group of Universities will cooperate with other institutions to bring these initiatives to life in the following academic year.
Initiatives and projects

Seminar ‘Camino de Santiago and Europe’
This seminar commemorates the 30th anniversary of the declaration *el Camino a Santiago* as the first route designated a European Cultural Itinerary. The programme of ‘Camino de Santiago and Europe’ includes lectures about culture, heritage and Europe.

I International University Forum ‘Human Rights and Way to Saint-James’
This forum will bring together international experts, academic representatives and students from five continents in different activities. The organizing committee of the forum is composed by the Compostela Group of Universities, Association Helsinki España-University Network and World Tourism Organization.

Social media platform
This internal social media platform will improve visibility and social interactions among member universities. This social network will be a tool for exchanges and the collaborative economy, where users can, for example, swap apartments, look for partners, discuss topics of common interest or send an invitation to have a coffee.
Academic & scientific bibliographic catalogue of el Camino a Santiago

This bibliographic catalogue will summarise existing digital and printed publications about *el Camino a Santiago* and the values that it embodies.

Collaborations with HEIs and local authorities

The Compostela Group of Universities will establish collaboration agreements with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and local authorities, in order to jointly carry out actions regarding the values centred on *el Camino a Santiago*, sustainable development goals, preservation of cultural heritage and solidarity.
We are proud to share our path with you
Our goals for next year

**Increasing the academic host database**

The Compostela Group of Universities has an extensive community, so reaching academic and research communities can be challenging. In order to reinforce the communication channels with them, in 2017 we created the concept of the academic host. We are working to increase our network of academic hosts with academics and researchers from the faculties of member Universities, so that these communities can take a more active position regarding CGU activities, by joining them or by proposing new initiatives. We hope to welcome new members in joining our path!

**Welcoming new members**

In the last eight months, five universities have presented their applications to join the Compostela Group of Universities. We will work hard to make progress in this area and extend the ways of our network.
Our goals for next year

**Upgrading corporate communications**

The CGU’s corporate communications need improving, not only to be seen as an attractive network to join but also to give greater visibility to our member universities. This annual report you are reading is part of our new corporate identity; we are endeavouring to give our communication a more humanising approach. In addition, we have created a manual of corporate identity and updated our logo, which is now available in six vibrant colours.

We also have plans for renewing our website and including a new section for content devoted to member universities. Each month, a member university of the CGU would be our guest, giving them a chance to highlight their academic programme or activities. Moreover, an academic or researcher will be invited to write an article that will also be published on our website.

**Energising the network**

The CGU has several channels of communications, but this year we will add one more to make easier and faster communications between the member universities of the network. We will create a social network that will serve different purposes, like planting the seeds for the establishment of a collaboration agreement or discovering a city thanks to a member of our network. Just as easy as creating a profile and you can start networking or planning a visit!

**Enhancing cooperation**

Improving Higher Education to build a better society is not a simple goal, but at the Compostela Group of Universities we thrive in the face of adversity. Nevertheless, achieving that objective requires the involvement of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and public authorities. We will focus our energies on fostering cooperation among networks of HEIs and public authorities that share our values, to create a society that brings us closer to the European Values of cooperation and integration centred on *el Camino a Santiago*.

One of the main targets of our activities will be students and young people, because we want to shape future leaders!
Contact the guides
How to get your pilgrim’s passport

Benefits of being a CGU’s pilgrim

• Worldwide recognition and visibility through CGU’s communications channels.
• Benefit from special conditions due to CGU’s connections with official institutions, networks and enterprises.
• Exchange of good practices and access to training and professional development programmes.
• Access to an extensive and diverse database of universities.
• Being part of an international community that cooperates in the organisation of European Commission projects and CGU activities.

Do you want to join us?

First, you have to decide which type of membership suits your organisation:

• Full membership for Higher Education institutions.
• Associate membership for enterprises, publishing houses and other commercial organisations.
• Collaborative membership for institutions and other not-for-profit organisations related to or interested in Higher Education.

Next, follow these simple steps:

• Fill the documents according to the type of membership you have chosen.
• The Rector or Senior Executive of your organisation must sign and stamp the application form. This application must be sent by ordinary post to the Secretariat of the Group along with the followings items: a written request to the President of the Group and a presentation of your organisation.

Visit our website to find more information about how to become a member!
Compostela Group of Universities
Permanent Secretariat

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