The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) took its first steps in 1994 and has grown in size over the years, with pilgrims from more than 60 universities across the world having since joined our non-profit international higher education association. Acting as a crossroads for all them, the CGU has become one of the largest such networks in Europe.

The CGU is the dean of the international networks of universities with a global scope based in Spain.
The Compostela Group of Universities welcomes you to its travel journal, which features the most notable experiences and activities of the last year and also contains notes on the exciting adventures to come in the year ahead. The way is long, so *buen camino!* 

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governance
AND ORGANIZATION
It was in the Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela that an international university network was born in 1994. Its aim was to facilitate cooperation between universities located along the Camino de Santiago and enable them to work together to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of this pilgrimage route. Seven pilgrim universities set out on a journey and were later joined by more than 60 universities from all over the world. Little by little, the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) has expanded its borders, becoming one of the largest networks in Europe and also welcoming universities from Asia and America.

It is in that spirit of openness to the world that we continue to move forward by holding the inaugural general assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities in the Americas, at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico, which has invited us to reflect on the role of higher education institutions as key players in the internationalization of cities.

2019 also marks the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the CGU, a time not only for celebration but also to recognize the efforts of the people who have helped make our university network what it is today. It is precisely for that reason that they were invited to participate in the commemorative video, which will be shown at the general assembly. Their accounts and recollections are the living history of the CGU.

Over the last 25 years, our network has consolidated its permanent activities, not least its mobility programs for students and services for the staff of its member universities, whose participation rates grow with every passing year. Furthermore, we have broadened our range of proposals with initiatives such as workshops, seminars, congresses and international forums linked to the Camino de Santiago and its heritage. These efforts were recognized at the 2018 Premios Camiño de Santiago, bestowed by Turismo de Galicia. An intangible heritage linked to the values of solidarity and cooperation, we now aim to pass it on to young people through the University Walking Community volunteer program, which will be introduced this summer.

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The last two years have also seen us revamp our corporate identity and communication channels. In the process we have created the Composnet social network, and updated the corporate identity of the CGU and its website.

We would now like to reveal to you the work carried out by the CGU since our last general assembly and introduce our plans for the future.

Marek Kręglewski
PRESIDENT OF THE COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES

When I turned 25, I felt I was grown up already, an adult in every sense of the word. I think the same can be said of the Compostela Group of Universities. All these years, half of which I have witnessed, have made it a mature and successful association.

Inmaculada Fortanet
Ann Langenakens
Antonio López Díaz
Carina Eriksson

© Maciej Męczyński - AMU University Press

The 25th anniversary of the Compostela Group of Universities is a great opportunity to strengthen our commitment to the internationalization of our universities.

So many years of fruitful cordial international collaboration and lasting friendships. Time has flown by so quickly.

A pleasant reminder of the deep, sustainable and successful collaboration within the Compostela framework, which has brought so many positive achievements over these 25 years.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS REFLECT ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Carla Martins
To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Compostela Group of Universities is to celebrate the success of a productive network that brings us all together in our quest to expand the internationalization of the universities along the Camino.

Jan Pavlik
As one of the founding members of the CGU, Masaryk University is proud and happy to see that so many universities worldwide today share the same values and ideals we had in mind when creating the network 25 years ago.

Joan Antoni Martín Montaner
A quarter of a century building the future on a centuries-old tradition.

Juan Francisco García Marín
While the University of Leon celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Compostela Group of Universities turns 25 years old; a happy coincidence, not only in the date but also in the values and beliefs that we share, in our conviction that the intercultural dialogue in higher education is fundamental in educating socially responsible citizens.

Marek Kreglewski
Being a member of the Compostela Group of Universities is like travelling through space and time, across the continent and through the centuries back to the time when the tomb of St. James was discovered. It’s a way of experiencing Europe’s long-lasting unity.

Maurin van Rooijen
Contrary to popular belief, higher education is not just about being the highest ranked or being part of an elitist club of mutual admiration; it is mostly about collaboration, appreciating the importance of diversity and ultimately about mutual respect. CGU has put that in practice for 25 years now! We rightly can be proud of such an achievement.

Slavomir Rudenko
In reaching its 25th birthday, the CGU has every reason to look back on its previous achievements with pride. And, somewhat symbolically at an age at which it is now a fully fledged adult but remains as vital and dynamic as ever, it has chosen to reach out even more to the wider world by organizing its general assembly outside of Europe.

Thomas Buntru
Congratulations on the 25th anniversary! Thanks to its varied and innovative programs, the Compostela Group of Universities has been a strategic partner in promoting a wide-ranging internationalization at UDEM throughout all these years.
The universities that joined us at the last general assembly express their views on their first year as part of the CGU

Mirko Kulić
RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS ACADEMY IN NOVI SAD

It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of the Compostela Group of Universities. As a full member of the CGU, we are fully capable of responding to the challenges of internationalization and building a position as one of the leading educational and scientific institutions in the region.
The CGU brings together 65 members from 30 different countries, sharing the path to knowledge and the goal of improving higher education for a better society.
DELEGATES

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.

STAFF

Lucía Castro Souto
Office Manager of the CGU Secretariat
Bárbara Fachal Santos
Communications Officer & Technician for Projects and Activities

STAFF AND DELEGATES OF THE CGU

President of the CGU
Marek Kręglewski
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (Poland)

Executive Secretary of the CGU
María Teresa Carballeira Rivera
University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Executive Committee
Marek Kręglewski
PRESIDENT
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (Poland)

Inmaculada Fontanet
vice-PRESIDENT
Jaume I University (Spain)

Slavonin Rudenko
TREASURER
Pan-European University (Slovakia)

Mª Teresa Carballeira Rivera
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Ann Langenakens
Erasmus University College Brussels (Belgium)

Antonio López Díaz
PERMANENT MEMBER
University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Carina Eriksson
Karlstad University (Sweden)

General Council
Composed of representatives of the full members of the Compostela Group of Universities.
The University of Guadalajara will also host the second edition of the Compostela Connection networking activity and the CGU Student Workshop on the Camino de Santiago.

The University of Minho is a young and dynamic comprehensive university, with more than 19,000 students, 13% of which coming from more than 80 countries all around the world. Strongly committed with its environment, UMinho acts as a true engine of the ecosystem of research and innovation that impact regionally, nationally and internationally. UMinho published its first Sustainability Report in 2010 and, since then, has been proactively working towards promoting, through its education, research knowledge transfer, internal procedures and policies, a more sustainable way of living and governance.

The XXVI General Assembly of the CGU in Guimarães will take place in September 2020. Do come and join us for fruitful discussions on how the network can make a difference on the development of a better world for all.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM MEXICO to Portugal
Along the way we have met with associations and institutions that share our values and objectives and with whom we have signed agreements that allow us to join forces to achieve them.

The President of the Asociación de Municipios del Camino de Santiago, Antonio Silván Rodríguez, and the President of the Compostela Group of Universities, Marek Kręglewski, signed a framework agreement at the XXIV General Assembly of the CGU in Salamanca (Spain). We worked together on the Camino University Walking Community volunteer program, which was set up with the aim of making it easier for the university community to carry out voluntary work along the Camino de Santiago and to promote the European values of cooperation, integration, diversity, tolerance and unity, values that the pilgrimage route shares.

In the summer of 2019, 40 students from CGU member universities will take part in one-month volunteer initiatives in municipalities forming part of the AMCS and located along the French Route.

The Compostela Group of Universities and the Axencia Turismo de Galicia have signed an agreement setting out their cooperation in the organization of an international university meeting that aims to strengthen ties in the higher education community, foster growth, and create new initiatives promoting sustainable development.

This meeting symbolizes the values embodied by the Camino de Santiago.

A recognition of all we have achieved

The CGU’s efforts were recognized at the Premios Camino de Santiago, where it won an award in the initiatives and activities of an academic, research or educational nature category.

The President of the Compostela Group of Universities, Marek Kręglewski was present at the awards ceremony, held at the Museum of Pilgrims and Santiago in the Galician capital on 4 October 2018.
activities
XXIII International Prize
Grupo Compostela – Xunta de Galicia

WHAT DOES THIS PRIZE MEAN FOR YOUR CAREER?

The Compostela Prize enhances our ability to express the importance of the Camino de Santiago as a model for other pilgrim routes around the world. A large part of my research career has been devoted to medieval and modern pilgrimages to the traditional shrine of St. James in Galicia, a journey that figures large in European history as a historic tidal movement of people, ideas, and cultures. The modern revival of pilgrim traffic on medieval pathways emphasizes the timeless draw of travel that is driven far more by values than by mere tourism.

This Compostela Prize honors travel as a means of transformation in all its forms, from patriotic visits to Normandy beaches to sites of reparation and solidarity at concentration camps in eastern Europe. Pilgrimage is a cultural universal, a longing for transcendence, a willingness to leave home to find one’s centre. Those who study and lead pilgrimages can be peacebuilders in a troubled world.

HOW DID YOUR BOND WITH THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO BEGIN?

I am a specialist in medieval Iberian literature and like many Americans I became fascinated with the Camino de Santiago in the 1990s. I used a research leave in 1998 to cycle with my spouse from Paris to Santiago de Compostela to explore the ancient routes and meet modern travelers along the way. It was a revelation. We encountered countless imposing monuments, spontaneous hospitality – even before we’d said we were pilgrims – and unforgettable natural landscapes. We also savored the rhythms of a pilgrim’s daily life: solitude and weariness by day, companionship and healing by night. We were nourished in countless ways.

I have walked the ancient pilgrimage trails another dozen times, accumulating over 5,000 kilometers as a pilgrim. Trudging and sleeping and caring for each other’s wounds and weariness in the walkers’ shelters transforms the traveler in special ways.

WHAT DROVE YOU TO CREATE THE INSTITUTE FOR PILGRIMAGE STUDIES?

We are historians, sociologists, health scientists and educators. We recognized that scores of American and Canadian universities were already exploring ancient routes in Europe. Trekking through unspoiled countryside allowed us to savor monuments and moments that had escaped the Disneyfication of internationalized urban capitals. We found a chance to research neglected treasures in the same way as their original visitors came upon them and, after fierce effort, with much the same joy.

The Institute for Pilgrimage Studies at William & Mary University now boasts the involvement of over 25 of its own faculty researchers in some 15 distinct disciplines, from legal history and religious studies to kinesiology and health sciences. Our department of Modern Languages supports our summer study abroad program, as does our School of Education. Our senior researchers participate from the fields of anthropology, art history and even dance and the theater arts.

Our Institute is arguably the most interdisciplinary program at our university and the most international program we sponsor abroad. And that is because the whole world comes to walk the paths of the Camino de Santiago.

The XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela – Xunta de Galicia was awarded to Professor George Greenia for his prolific academic career, strong ties with Galicia, and his contribution to raising the profile of the phenomenon that is the Camino de Santiago.

Find out more about the researcher and academic in this brief interview.
VIII Video Contest

The international Video Contest encourages CGU students to work with new technologies, fostering the development of professional skills adapted to the new digital age.

In response to the 2019 call, students from four member universities submitted videos.

1st Prize

Submitted by a group of students from Anáhuac Xalapa University (Mexico), What I Have Learned pays tribute to female power. The video shows women’s perspectives of the values acquired during their university education.

2nd Prize

In their short film, The Route, the Elephant’s Room student group from Jaume I University (Spain) sought to convey the diverse experiences offered by the Camino de Santiago and tell a story of love, reunions, friendship and new beginnings.

Stella Junior

This mobility program gives students from CGU member universities the opportunity to do internships, experience other cultures and enhance their language and professional skills.

In 2019, STELLA Junior attracted the largest number of participants since its creation in 2014. The CGU received 23 applications in all, with 17 member universities sending in offers or applications for the program. The selection committee awarded grants to six of the applicants.

Brandon Alberto Lopez Osorio, Marea Mariana Reyes Juaréz, Miguel Ángel Sánchez Murcia and Mario Adrian Baez Danell

Laura Calomarde Juárez, Paula Ortiz Anquela, Guillermo Arturo Baameiro Gallardo and Violeta Martín Burgos

There were things I did not picture myself doing when I started my journalism degree, but now I see them as a possibility. The STELLA Junior program took me out of my comfort zone. It showed me different perspectives and communication formats, as well as communicator profiles. Ultimately, I think it has done more than just add an international dimension to my CV, which was my goal when I applied for the program; it has changed my view of the profession and the role I can play in it.

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Last year, Siboney Flores Topete from the University of Guadalajara (Mexico) went to Spain for professional training course at the University of Valencia’s Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication.

Winners of the 2019 STELLA Junior Video Contest:

1st Prize: What I Have Learned

2nd Prize: The Route
Stella for Staff

This program promotes and facilitates career mobility for staff at the CGU’s member universities, helping them improve their training and skills and move between continents

In 2019, 18 administrative staff were selected from the 98 applications submitted, and enjoyed rewarding professional and cultural experiences.

Last year, Elizabeth Aylas from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru received a mobility grant for a placement at the External Relations Office of Karlstad University (Sweden).

FOR RESEARCHERS

III Research Pitches Contest

The Research Pitches Contest aims to promote and recognize research work carried out at the CGU’s member universities

In 2019, researchers from eight member universities submitted a total of 16 pitches.

1st PRIZE

Media accessibility in Galicia, submitted by researcher Mercedes Martinez Lorenzo of the University of Vigo (Spain), aims to raise awareness of the lack of quality media accessibility for people with sensory disabilities in Galicia, and to provide a starting point for future studies.

2nd PRIZE

Virtual reality as a tool for designing inclusive physical environments, presented by researcher Claudia Margarita Fernández Rivera of the University of Guadalajara (Mexico), illustrates how inclusive design can help create better physical environments for communities.

3rd PRIZE

Presented by researcher Miguel Frasquet Herraiz of the University of Seville (Spain), Solar enhanced oil recovery seeks to draw attention to the growing problem of greenhouse gas emissions in the oil industry. The researcher is studying how solar energy can be concentrated to produce steam and replace the use of fossil fuels in processes of this type.

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ELIZABETH AYLAS FROM THE PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF PERU

The creation of value in the education sector is reflected in universities like this, where continuous improvement is a constant in their processes and, above all, in their commitment to objectives, the interconnection between society’s various actors, and innovation as the pillar for the development of society as a whole. Offices like this have a vision and such clear objectives, and provide a model for many universities in South America to follow. I have nothing but gratitude to the team for welcoming me, explaining their processes and involving me in their day-to-day life as just another member of the team. It shows what great people they are.
THE COMPOSTELA ACADEMY ON THE CAMINO
New initiatives

In the coming years, the CGU will embark on several initiatives aimed at involving the entire university community in the Compostela Academy on the Camino.

**INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF RECTORS ON THE CAMINO**

The CGU will invite 65 rectors to participate in this meeting and help lay the foundation for a European university model, in line with that promoted by the European Union, and discuss the introduction of Sustainable Development Goals to the university curriculum. The meeting will take place in October 2019 in Santiago de Compostela.

**III INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO**

The CGU and the Cátedra do Camino de Santiago e das Peregrinacións will once again join forces to organize the III International Congress on the Camino de Santiago, to be held on 23-25 October 2019. This year’s congress will focus on the Portuguese Route, with the Portuguese-Spanish border providing the meeting point.

**LINKING UNIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO**

The aim of the Linking University Knowledge project is to adopt a technological approach in promoting the heritage of the Camino de Santiago and its values. The project will give 17 young people the opportunity to live together for seven days in Galicia in 2020 and to take part in a practical and theory-based training course on heritage, cultural routes and the Camino de Santiago. The course will combine talks with visits to cultural heritage sites and workshops.
projects
The main objective of the Transfer of Good Practices and Reinforcement of Internationalisation Strategies in Kurdistan (TIGRIS) project is to work on three different levels—institutional, national and international—in supporting the modernization, accessibility, and internationalisation of higher education in Kurdistan. As an associate partner, the CGU will assist with the dissemination of the project and its results.

EVALUATE
The EVALUATE project provides a framework in which trainee teachers in initial teacher education (ITE) can engage in telecollaborative exchanges with fellow trainees in other locations. Between 2017 and 2018, the project consortium trained teacher trainers and organized virtual exchanges between more than 1,000 student teachers at initial teacher education institutions. The research team analyzed the learning gains from these exchanges using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, and produced a report on the impact of virtual exchange on initial teacher education.

In addition, the consortium worked with representatives from European ministries of education to understand how virtual exchange could be upscaled in teacher education across Europe.

The final conference of the European EVALUATE policy experiment will be held at the University of Leon on 4–6 September 2019.

QAPHENET
The CGU is a coordinator of this project, which seeks to create a network for the development and implementation of quality tools for higher vocational education in partner countries—Russia, Brazil and Paraguay—based on European standards.

GALEUROPA
Through Galeuropa, the Compostela Group of Universities seeks to enhance the employability and professional skills of unemployed Galician people under the age of 30 and who are not in education or training by offering them international vocational training. Thirteen young people were selected for three-month mobility placements in Portugal, Italy and the United Kingdom, with each receiving a scholarship including an internship, a language-training course, accommodation and meals. At the end of the placement, they were given a certificate confirming they had received non-formal youth training.

The Galeuropa program is co-funded by the Youth Employment initiative and the European Social Fund.

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**JASMINE**
The objective of the Joint Action to Strengthen Management of University International Relations (JASMINE) project is to train staff from the human resources departments of partner organizations in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Syria in competitive international programs such as H2020 or Erasmus+. It also seeks to give them the tools to create new facilities such as international relations offices.

The CGU will identify European experts to provide training in international relations and collaborate in the organization of mobility placements and the dissemination of the initiative.

**INTEG**
The aim of INTEG is to train staff from the human resources departments of consortium partners – Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia – in international higher education programs, and also provide them with the tools to implement performance structures and enhance their effectiveness, branding and international visibility.

The CGU will assist with the task of identifying experts to provide training in international relations and help organize job shadowing and the dissemination of the project.

**CALOHEE II AND CALOHEx**
The Measuring and Comparing Achievements of Learning Outcomes in Higher Education in Europe (CALOHEE) project aimed to develop the infrastructure that will eventually make it possible to compare the performance of students enrolled in higher education around Europe and across a range of fields, thereby meeting the needs of the various stakeholders in the European higher education community.

CALOHEE II is a follow-up of this project and will focus on the development of a sophisticated assessment instrument and test items. CalohEx is an extension of CALOHEE in another five subject areas: business administration, information engineering/ICT, international relations, medicine, and performing and fine arts.
CORPORATE initiatives
INCREASING THE SCOPE OF THE CGU’S INITIATIVES

NEW WEBSITE

The CGU has revamped its website to enhance its appeal, responsiveness and the organization of its content, making it easier for users to find the information they are looking for and enabling speedy access to initiatives and activities aimed at students, researchers, universities and academic and departmental staff.

NEW WEBSITE

COMPOSNET

The CGU seeks to facilitate interactions between its members through its social network, offering them content that makes their life easier and allows them to meet the needs of the university community. As well as providing teachers and staff with a safe, secure space, it opens a door to opportunities as diverse as organizing stays abroad for their children, exchanging homes for holidays, connecting with fellow experts for their projects or academic activities, or simply acting as a city guide for sightseers.

To embark on this adventure, all you have to do is visit https://composnet.org/ and create your profile. What are you waiting for?

Public utility entity

The Compostela Group of Universities has embarked on a process that will lead to it being declared a public utility entity. As a result, CGU initiatives will be open to wider participation and will therefore have greater social reach.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the CGU

LOGO

The Compostela Group of Universities has lent its identity to the 25th anniversary of its foundation, through the creation of a logo. A modern design, it combines four of the colors of the CGU’s new corporate identity and recalls the year it was founded: 1994.

VIDEO

Illustrating its past, present and future, the CGU’s commemorative video includes contributions from many of the people who form part of the human capital of our international network, lending it warmth and sincerity.

The video will be shown for the first time at the CGU’s XXV General Assembly.

PUBLICATION

The CGU will prepare a commemorative pack featuring images of the milestones that have marked the association’s 25-year history. The publication will be presented at the International Meeting of Rectors on the Camino.

Next Events

XXV General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities

INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Participation in initiatives

Participation in activities

Participation in groups

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JOIN US
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 programs.
• Access to an extensive and diverse database of universities.
• Being part of an international community that cooperates in the organization of European Commission projects and CGU activities.

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN US?

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

• Full membership for Higher Education institutions.
• Associate membership for enterprises, publishing houses and other commercial organizations.
• Collaborative membership for institutions and other not-for-profit organizations 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 organization 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 organization.

Visit our website to find more information about how to become a member!
compostela group of universities

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