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**25 Years of the Compostela Group of Universities**
PRESIDENTS OF THE CGU

1994 - 1999
Marc Richelle
UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE

1999 - 2007
Michael Cooper
KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY

2007 - 2015
Maurits van Rooijen
UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER (1993-2009)
NYENRODE UNIVERSITY (2009-2012)
GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS (2012 TO PRESENT)

2015 - PRESENT
Marek Kręglewski
ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAN

OF THE COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Executive Secretary</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995 - 1998</td>
<td>Álvaro de Mingo Díaz</td>
<td>University of Santiago de Compostela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Manuel Freire-Garabal</td>
<td>University of Santiago de Compostela</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999 - 2003</td>
<td>Marta González Vázquez</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004 - 2006</td>
<td>Enrique López Veloso</td>
<td>University of Santiago de Compostela</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 - 2010</td>
<td>Beatriz Iglesias Seoane</td>
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2012 - 2017

Isabel Lirola Delgado
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

2017 - PRESENT

María Teresa Carballeira Rivera
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

25 years
OF THE COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Félix García Lausín</td>
<td>University Jaume I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>José Vicente Oliver Villanueva</td>
<td>University Georgia-Augusta Göttingen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuel Freire-Garabal</td>
<td>University of Santiago de Compostela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Richelle</td>
<td>University of Liège</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>María da Conceição Matos</td>
<td>University of Minho</td>
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<tr>
<td>María José Crespo Allue</td>
<td>University of Valladolid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre Yvard</td>
<td>University of Nantes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramón Villares Paz</td>
<td>University of Santiago de Compostela</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CGU

1994 - 1999

Darío Villanueva Prieto
PERMANENT MEMBER. UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
Ellen Fischer-Kallmann
UNIVERSITY GEORGIA-AUGUSTA GÖTTINGEN
Félix García Lausín
JAUME I UNIVERSITY
Jiri Sramek
Masaryk University, Brno
Juan Luís Gómez Colomer
JAUME I UNIVERSITY
Loïc Fravalo
UNIVERSITY OF NANTES

Manuel Freire-Garabal
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
María José Crespo Allue
UNIVERSITY OF VALLADOLID
Maurits van Rooijen
UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER
Michael Cooper
KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY
Minoo Farhangmehr
UNIVERSITY OF MINHO
Paolo Guiseppe Caucci
UNIVERSITY OF PERUGIA
1999 - 2003

Maurits van Rooijen
VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Ana María Fuertes Eugenio
JAUME I UNIVERSITY

Dario Villanueva Prieto
PERMANENT MEMBER, UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (1999-2002)

Don Sparling
MASARYK UNIVERSITY, BRNO

Joseph Mifsud
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

Laura Howard
UNIVERSITY OF CADIZ

Manuel Mota
UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

Marek Kręglewski
ADAM MICHELEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAŃ

María Elena Vázquez Cendón
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Michel Moreau
UNIVERSITY PIERRE AND MARIE CURIE

Natividad Fernández Sola
UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA

Paolo Giuseppe Caucci
UNIVERSITY OF PERUGIA

Senén Barro Ameneiro

2003 - 2007

Maurits van Rooijen
VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Ana María Fuertes Eugenio
JAUME I UNIVERSITY

Don Sparling
MASARYK UNIVERSITY, BRNO

Joseph Mifsud
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

Laura Howard
UNIVERSITY OF CADIZ

Manuel Mota
UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

Marek Kręglewski
ADAM MICHELEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAŃ

Mercedes Jaime Sisó
UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA

Michel Moreau
UNIVERSITY PIERRE AND MARIE CURIE

Paolo Giuseppe Caucci
UNIVERSITY OF PERUGIA

Senén Barro Ameneiro
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
Laura Howard
VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF CADIZ

Marek Kręglewski
TREASURER, ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAN

Don Sparling
MASARYK UNIVERSITY, BRNO

Eva Alcón Soler
JAUME I UNIVERSITY

Francisco Marmolejo
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Jean Pierre Roose
ERASMUS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BRUSSELS

Juan J. Casares Long
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (2010-2011)

Lourenzo Fernández Prieto
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Manuel Mota
UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

Marielle de Dardel
UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

Natividad Fernández Sola
UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA

Omar Grech
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

Riitta Kataja
UNIVERSITY OF OULU

Senén Barro Ameneiro
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (2007-2010)

Inmaculada Fortanet
VICE-PRESIDENT, JAUME I UNIVERSITY

Laura Howard
VICE-PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF CADIZ

Marek Kręglewski
TREASURER, ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY

Adriana Lago de Carvalho
UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

Catherine Dhaussy
UNIVERSITY OF NANTES

Jean Pierre Roose
GU'S DELEGATE IN BRUSSELS

Juan J. Casares Long
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (2011-2014)

Juan Viaño Rey

László Imre Kómlosi
UNIVERSITY OF PéCS

Manuel Freire-Garabal
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Marielle de Dardel
UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

Michael Cooper
NOMINAL MEMBER, KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY

Michael Proctor
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Thomas Martin Buntru
UNIVERSITY OF MONTERREY
Inmaculada Fortanet  
VICE-PRESIDENT. JAUME I UNIVERSITY

Slavomir Rudenko  
TREASURER. PAN-EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

Ann Langenakens  
ERASMUS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BRUSSELS

Carina Eriksson  
KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY

Carla Martins  
UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

Gyula Zeller  
UNIVERSITY OF PéCS

Jan Pavlík  
MASARYK UNIVERSITY, BRNO

Jean Pierre Roose  
CGU’S DELEGATE IN BRUSSELS

Juan Francisco García Marín  
UNIVERSITY OF LEON

Juan Viaño Rey  
PERMANENT MEMBER. UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (2015-2018)

Manuel Freire Garabal  
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Maurits van Rooijen  
NOMINAL MEMBER. GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS

Thomas Martin Buntru  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTERREY

Inmaculada Fortanet  
VICE-PRESIDENT. JAUME I UNIVERSITY

Slavomir Rudenko  
TREASURER. PAN-EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

Ann Langenakens  
ERASMUS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BRUSSELS

Carina Eriksson  
KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY

Carla Martins  
UNIVERSITY OF MINHO

István Tarrósy  
UNIVERSITY OF PéCS

Jean Pierre Roose  
HONORARY MEMBER

Joan Antoni Martín Montaner  
JAUME I UNIVERSITY

Juan Francisco García Marín  
UNIVERSITY OF LEON

Manuel Freire Garabal  
UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Maurits van Rooijen  
NOMINAL MEMBER. GLOBAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS

Thomas Martin Buntru  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTERREY
Milestones in the 25-year history of the Compostela Group of Universities
The CGU came into being in the early 1990’s in northwestern Spain, in the heartland of the Camino de Santiago, with an almost fraternal bond being established between the pilgrimage route and the university network.

The CGU began to take shape in the autumn of 1993, with the founding universities taking a year to define the network project and its objectives. It was not until September 1994 that the CGU constituent assembly was held at the University of Santiago de Compostela.

The statutes were drawn up by a steering committee formed by representatives of the host university and the universities of Valladolid, Liege, Nantes, Jaume I, Georgia-Augusta Göttingen, and Minho. They state that the founding objective of the network is to facilitate and promote cooperation in the higher education sector, the aim being to promote the cultural heritage of the Camino de Santiago and to understand the pilgrimage route as a social phenomenon that has made a decisive contribution in defining the concept and nature of Europe.

There were 71 member universities at that time.
In seeking to develop the activities related to its founding objective, the CGU began to build alliances with other public and private entities that shared in values. The first of them was with the Consellería de Cultura, Comunicación Social y Turismo de la Xunta Galicia and concerned the creation of an international award. The International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia was launched in 1996. This accolade is awarded annually to an individual or institution that has excelled through their work in favor of European unity and the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Camino de Santiago and its values, which are a symbol of the creation of Europe and lie at the heart of its origins.

Throughout these 23 years, the award has recognized outstanding personalities and entities from the fields of culture, politics, education, communication and research.
The diplomat Mohamed ElBaradei receives the International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia in 2010
Neelie Kroes, a former vice-president of the European Commission and a winner of the XV International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia, meets with CGU representatives in Brussels.
The representative of the College of Europe collects the award at the XVIII EGU General Assembly.

TV channel Euronews receives the award in 2013.
Swedish academic Lennart Levi wins the XVIII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia.

The Erasmus program receives the 2015 award at a ceremony held at the University of Santiago de Compostela.
Marcelino Oreja Aguirre, former executive secretary of the Council of Europe, receives the award in 2017.
The academic George D. Greenia officially donates his XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia financial award.

The academic María Pilar Alonso Abad officially donates her XXII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia financial award.
WINNERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

2019  George D. Greenia
2018  María Pilar Alonso Abad
2017  Marcelino Oreja Aguirre
2016  CIRCOM-European Association of Regional Television
2015  Erasmus Program
2014  Lennart Levi
2013  Euronews
2012  College of Europe
2011  Neelie Kroes
2010  Mohamed ElBaradei
2009  Amin Maalouf
2008  Arte TV Channel
2007  Manuel Castells Oliván
2006  Helsinki Group of Women and Science
2005  Władysław Bartoszewski
2004  Miquel Siguán Soler
2003  Manuel Díaz y Díaz
2002  Alvaro Siza
2001  Carla del Ponte
2000  Cees Nooteboom
1999  Helmut Rilling
1998  Vaclav Havel
1997  Jacques Santer
Since its creation, the CGU has promoted collaboration in the field of higher education, embarking on this process in its own network through the formation of working groups. These groups have been fostering cooperation between professors and researchers from the member universities of the network since 2003, covering topics such as multilingualism and cross-cultural communication, European studies, gender issues, the northern routes, communication, and collaborative online international learning.
Forum on women in research and society
To further its goal of promoting the dissemination of European values in higher education, the CGU embarked on its publishing activities, which began with the publication of the book *The Psychology of the European Monetary Union: A Cross-National Study of Public Opinions Towards the Euro* in 2001.

The CGU publishes works on European issues, the Camino de Santiago, and the International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia.
The External Relations Office team at Karlstad University welcomes Stella for Staff program beneficiary Elizabeth Ayala.

Stella for Staff program beneficiary Minia Angulo visits the University of Arizona.

The Stella for Staff program was a pioneering initiative of the CGU, at a time when administrative staff had very few opportunities for professional mobility abroad.

Since its creation in 2003, more than 400 administrative staff from the member universities have been able to enjoy international professional experiences thanks to the grants awarded by the CGU.
INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The International Volunteer Program combined training and volunteering, with its young participants carrying out volunteer work related to their academic fields during the summer months in municipalities located along the French Route of the Camino de Santiago.

Between 2003 and 2007 more than 150 young people joined the International Volunteer Program.
In its statutes, the CGU is defined as an open and inclusive network of universities. It is only natural, therefore, that it has expanded its borders beyond Europe. Its international expansion began in the Americas, with the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and the University of Lima joining the network in 2004.
The celebrations held to mark the tenth anniversary of the CGU will be remembered for the participation of their Royal Highnesses the King and Queen of Spain at the International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia award ceremony, held at the X General Assembly of the network, hosted by the University of Pécs in Hungary.
CREATION OF THE GOLDEN PIN

The CGU’s Golden Pin was created in response to the need to recognize the work of those who have contributed to the network’s development and growth. It is a symbolic gesture of gratitude for their dedication.

Manuel Freire-Gonzalez receives the Golden Pin in 2004

Michael Cooper collects the award in 2007

CREATION OF THE GOLDEN PIN

The CGU’s Golden Pin was created in response to the need to recognize the work of those who have contributed to the network’s development and growth. It is a symbolic gesture of gratitude for their dedication.

Manuel Freire-Gonzalez receives the Golden Pin in 2004

Michael Cooper collects the award in 2007

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Manuel Freire-Gonzalez receives the Golden Pin in 2004

Michael Cooper collects the award in 2007
Jean Pierre Roose collects the award in 2007
Marc Richelle receives the award in 2009
Isabel Linda Delgado collects the Golden Pin in 2018

Maurits van Rooijen receives the award in 2018
The CGU experienced significant international expansion in the period 2007-2015, when 38 new members joined the network, 24 of them from universities from the Americas: universities from the United States of America, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Dominican Republic and Panama.
In attending the XXIII General Assembly of the CGU, the member universities signaled their commitment to embarking on the final phase of the creation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by signing the Declaration of Santiago. The network considered that the EHEA would increase international competitiveness and make Europe a center of attraction for higher education institutions, researchers, teachers and students from all over the world.

APPROVAL OF THE DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO

Participants at the XX CGU General Assembly, where the declaration was endorsed.
THREE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORKS COME TOGETHER TO ORGANIZE JOINT WORKSHOPS

The European university networks SGroup, UNICA and the CGU joined forces to organize annual one-day meetings designed to meet their member institutions’ needs for the latest, up-to-date information, best practice, and networking and cooperation opportunities. This collaboration has been ongoing for nearly a decade now.
This was a year in which the CGU became fully involved in projects co-financed by the European Commission and which started in 2004. In 2010, the network contributed to the development of 12 projects and has since then participated in more than 40 projects co-financed by the European Commission, within the framework of the Erasmus+, Tempus and Erasmus Mundus programs. These projects cover areas as diverse as telecollaboration, the modernization of higher education, the sharing of best practice, and the mobility of research, academic, administrative and student staff.
Members of the EVALUATE project consortium at the kick-off meeting in Leon (Spain) in 2017

Participants in the Galeuropa project selected to go on an internship in the Azores (Portugal) in 2019

CORINTHAM project meeting in Braga (Portugal)
The Stella Junior program was set up to give students the opportunity to train within the network and thereby improve their language and professional skills in the various university departments. Since the program’s launch, more than 20 graduate and postgraduate students from the network have been able to expand their knowledge and skills.
CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL VIDEO CONTEST

In its awareness of the importance of new technologies in the digital age, the CGU sought to promote their use among young people and encourage them to develop their skills in creating audiovisual content. These goals were the driving force behind the launch of the international video contest. During the course of its eight editions, the contest has recognized the audiovisual talent of 16 students from the network’s member universities.
As part of the assembly held at Adam Mickiewicz University, a commemorative event was organized to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the university network. The occasion provided an opportunity to recognize the founders of the network and the people who have since come together to leave their mark on the history of the CGU.
Participants at the XX CGU General Assembly, where the declaration was endorsed.

In 2014, the members of the CGU unanimously endorsed this formal declaration, an initiative that seeks to encourage higher education institutions to embrace ethics and engage in the ongoing global fight against corruption.
CREATION OF THE RESEARCH PITCHES CONTEST

This initiative seeks to recognize and give visibility to the research work developed by CGU member universities. The three research pitches competitions held to date have seen prizes awarded to nine researchers for the clarity of their presentations and their ability to communicate the relevance of their project.
CREATION OF THE COMPOSTELA ACADEMY ON THE CAMINO

The CGU reconnected with its origins by refocusing its activities on the Camino de Santiago. In doing so, it created the Compostela Academy on the Camino to provide a meeting point for all activities undertaken with the aim of offering training and spreading the word about the pilgrimage route and its values.

First International University Forum: “The Value of Human Rights on the Camino de Santiago: Harnessing the Power of Tourism to Promote Cross-Cultural Dialogue and Achieve the SDGs”, 2018

The European Year of Cultural Heritage and Camino de Santiago International Congress in 2018
In partnership with the University of Regensburg, the network organized the First CGU Student Workshop on the Camino de Santiago in the summer of 2017. Students of various nationalities attended a training course on the pilgrimage route and then walked the section of the Camino running between the Czech cities of Prague and Plzen.
The CGU began working with the University of Santiago de Compostela’s Cátedra del Camino de Santiago y de las Peregrinaciones with a view to organizing an academic activity focusing on the pilgrimage route and aimed at graduate and postgraduate students. Each year students have the opportunity to learn from experts and walk a stretch of the Camino de Santiago.

Over the last two years, thanks to the scholarships awarded by the organizers, more than 20 national and international students from the network’s member universities have travelled to Santiago de Compostela to attend the activity.
APPROVAL OF THE RECTOR’S DECLARATION: THE VALUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

In signing this institutional declaration, the rectors and representatives of 19 universities and international institutions expressed their commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), protecting human rights and promoting tourism that contributes to economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability.

The declaration was signed at the international university forum “The Value of Human Rights on the Camino de Santiago: Harnessing the Power of Tourism to Promote Cross-Cultural Dialogue and Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. Held in Santiago de Compostela, the forum was attended by representatives from 20 universities in 13 countries and more than 100 international students and professors.
The CGU president attends a Premios Camiño de Santiago award ceremony.

The CGU received an award at the 2018 Premios Camiño de Santiago for fostering initiatives and activities of an academic, research and educational nature related to the pilgrimage route. The Premios Camiño de Santiago are awarded annually by Turismo de Galicia.
The University Walking Community program came into being with the aim of making it easier for the university community to carry out voluntary work on the Camino de Santiago and to promote the European values of cooperation, integration, diversity, tolerance and unity associated with the pilgrimage route.

During the summer of 2019, 21 students from CGU member universities volunteered for a month’s work in municipalities located along the French Route and which form part of the Asociación de Municipios del Camino de Santiago. Before carrying out their volunteer work, the students took a training course.
Traditionally, the general assemblies of the CGU have been held in Europe. As the network has expanded its borders, however, the opportunity has arisen for this annual event to be held in other parts of the world.

For the first time in the history of the CGU, the general assembly took place in the Americas, at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico).
The CGU and the Consellería de Cultura y Turismo of the Xunta de Galicia worked together in organizing the International Meeting of Rectors on the Camino de Santiago. The aim of this gathering is to bring Galicia closer to the rectors of the GCU partner universities and to foster dialogue and debate on the implementation of sustainable development goals in higher education and the European Universities Initiative, endorsed by the European Commission.
The CGU adopted a new corporate identity, one that takes a visual and communicative approach. The design of the new logo respects the common nexus that links the network’s identity with that of the Camino de Santiago, namely the shell, and provides greater harmony in terms of its composition and color scheme. Meanwhile, a more direct and humanistic approach to the communication strategy was adopted. Network members were given access to tools to interact with each other, such as the Composnet social network or the intranet. The CGU also revamped its website, enhancing its appeal, reorganizing its content and making the design more responsive so that it can be viewed on all devices.
A logo was designed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the CGU and recall the year the network came into being: 1994.

In addition, a video and this publication will reveal the most significant milestones in the history of the university network, through the words of the people who form part of the CGU’s past, present and future.