

# 2019-2020 Annual Report



compostela

GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES  
GRUPO DE UNIVERSIDADES

University of Minho • Grigol Robakidze University • CETYS University • University of Extremadura • Rey Juan Carlos University • University of Vigo • Technical University of Madrid • University Kore di Enna • University of La Laguna • University of Piura • University of Surabaya (UBAYA) • University of Nantes • UNESP São Paulo State University • Ilia State University • Columbus University • University of Valencia • University of Grodno • University of Pécs • University of Cadiz • University of Lleida • University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria • Karlstad University • University of the Basque Country • University of Monterrey • University of Lodz • Anahuac Xalapa University • University La Salle, AC • University of Lima • University of Seville • Technological Institute of Santo Domingo • Adam Mickiewicz University • University of Oviedo • University Business Academy in Novi Sad • University of Santiago de Compostela • University of Salamanca • Pan-European University • University of Regensburg • Pontifical Catholic University of Peru • University of Leon • University of Malaga • University of Zaragoza • University of Malta • Kazimieras Simonavicius University • International Telematic University UNINETTUNO • University of Burgos • Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC) • National University Mayor de San Marcos • Jaime I University • Philipps-Universität Marburg • Zhejiang Wanli University • Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education • University of Guadalajara • University of Worcester • University of Malaga • Grigol Robakidze University • CETYS University • University of Extremadura • Rey Juan Carlos University • University of Vigo • Technical University of Madrid • University Kore di Enna • University of La Laguna • University of Fribourg • University of Piura • University of Surabaya (UBAYA) • University of Nantes • UNESP São Paulo State University • Ilia State University • Columbus University • University of Valencia • University of A Coruña • Yanka Kupala State University • University of Grodno • University of Pécs • University of Cadiz • University of Lleida • University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria • Karlstad University • University of the Basque Country • University of Monterrey • University of Lodz • Anahuac Xalapa University • University La Salle, AC • University of Lima • University of Seville • Technological Institute of Santo Domingo • Adam Mickiewicz University • University of Oviedo • University Business Academy in Novi Sad • University of Santiago de Compostela • University of Salamanca • Pan-European University • University of Regensburg • Pontifical Catholic University of Peru • University of Leon • University of Malaga • University of Zaragoza • University of Malta • Kazimieras Simonavicius University • International Telematic University UNINETTUNO • University of Burgos • Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC) • National University Mayor de San Marcos • Jaime I University • Philipps-Universität Marburg • Zhejiang Wanli University • Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education • University of Guadalajara • University of Almeria • Masaryk University • Technical University of Cartagena • University of Worcester

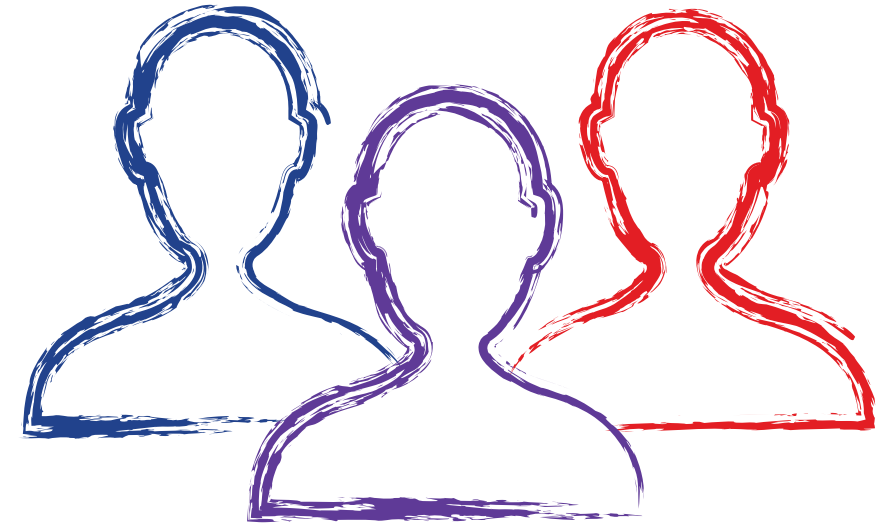


The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) took its first steps in 1994 and has grown in size over the years, with pilgrims from more than 60 universities across the world having since joined our international non-profit higher education association. Acting as a crossroads for all of them, the CGU has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

The CGU is the doyen of the international university networks to be based in Spain and the first to be recognised as an association of public benefit.



# *governance* AND ORGANISATION







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As far as the history of our network is concerned, the story of 2019 will be printed in silver ink, for it was a year in which we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the moment when the paths taken by the members of our pilgrimage community came together as one. This special landmark was an ideal opportunity to invite you to join us in watching our anniversary video, to which some of you contributed, and to take you on a journey through time in our commemorative publication, which mapped out the main milestones in our journey to date.

Last year will also be remembered as one in which the activities of the Compostela Academy on the Camino achieved lift-off and in which it spread its wings to reach out to even more members of our university community. From volunteer programmes aimed at young people and seniors to the first international meeting of rectors organised by our network, all these initiatives are driven by the common goal of spreading the values and heritage of the Camino de Santiago, through a combination of academic and experiential training.

In addition, we launched the Programme for the Development of Virtual Exchange VE-COIL, a new tool designed to promote cooperation and the internationalisation of learning among our members. In giving our support to this initiative, we created the Universities for Virtual Exchange Network, to which I invite those institutions that have not yet done so to join. With the aim of laying on training for teaching staff at our member universities, we also organised workshops so they could engage in these virtual exchanges.

Meanwhile, two calls were held to identify partners who could make them happen.

Internationalisation-at-home initiatives, such as the one mentioned above, have taken on more importance in a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had such an effect on our everyday lives. The new international scenario and the shift in reality it has created have posed a challenge for every higher education institution, just as it has for our network. To begin with, we decided to put our activities on hold and make our deadlines more flexible, creating a smooth transition for the members of our community. We then assessed their needs and incorporated online training into our initiatives, offering a course on professional website design. At a time like this, the online dissemination of academic and research projects is more important than ever, given the restrictions imposed on face-to-face events, which are common forums for the presentation of many such projects.

This new reality has also forced us to hold the General Assembly online, an occasion on which the University of Minho will invite us to share our experiences and best practice on the impact the pandemic is having on higher education.

Finally, I would like to invite you to read this annual report and discover the initiatives we have undertaken since our last general assembly and the projects we have in mind for the near future.

**Marek Kręglewski**  
PRESIDENT OF THE COMPOSTELA  
GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES

## Our Executive Committee members reflect on the lessons learned from the pandemic

**Marek Kręglewski**

*The coronavirus pandemic can be seen as an unexpected side effect of globalisation and has shown the limits of knowledge. The environment matters!*

**Inmaculada Fortanet**

*The coronavirus crisis will contribute to a greater awareness of the many possibilities of online teaching and learning. But it has also made us miss what makes the university experience so much more than sharing information through a computer screen, both for students and for teachers.*

**Slavomir Rudenko**

*In an interconnected world it has become more important than ever before to face global challenges jointly, by means of international cooperation.*

**Antonio López**

*The pandemic has shown the necessity for universities to improve the way knowledge is transferred to a society in profound need of certainty.*



**Carina Eriksson**

*The coronavirus crisis has convinced me of the need to adjust to a new world for internationalisation of higher education. The integration of internationalisation into core activities at universities will most likely be even more important in the future.*



**Jan Pavlík**

*I would like to think that all of us – teachers, administrators and, above all, students – have understood how dull and gloomy the educational landscape is without the possibility of living the international experience in vivo, and that we will all work even harder from now on to make international mobility a natural and possibly automatic part of a decent university education.*



**Joan Antoni  
Martín Montaner**

*The extended use of tools for compulsory virtual learning has changed the way we view mobility. Blended activities will therefore be the next big step forward in internationalisation.*



**Juan Francisco  
García Marín**

*The pandemic has served to demonstrate the professionalism, capacity and solidarity of our institutions.*



**Manuel Freire-  
Garabal Núñez**

*The coronavirus outbreak is an opportunity to accelerate higher education reforms on a global scale, which should lead to the creation of affordable, accessible, and sustainable ways to empower our students in an unpredictable and changing world.*



**Maurits van Rooijen**

*The good news is that we should take confidence from coping with a big challenge and also that we should have fewer (regulatory) restrictions and a more 'open plan' education for the future, so that we are properly equipped to deal quickly with the unexpected.*



**Thomas Buntru**

*For me the major lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic are that it is possible to offer quality online instruction, that many professional meetings and conferences can be held virtually, and that it is very important to strengthen internationalisation-at-home programmes of benefit to all students, whether they are mobile or not.*

The new members of our network, with whom we embarked on a shared path at the last general assembly, share their experiences from their first year as part of the CGU



**Professor David Green CBE**  
VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER

*The global COVID-19 pandemic has made the Compostela Group of Universities even more relevant to 21st-century society. The fragility of humanity, the significance of science, the need for co-operation and the enduring vitality of the values of solidarity, compassion, respect for life, love and learning have been reinforced on a daily basis all over the world. The University of Worcester, globally highly commended for work on environmental sustainability by the United Nations in July 2021, looks forward to co-operating with our sister universities in creating a just society and a peaceful, prosperous, fully sustainable planet.*





The CGU brings together 67 members and collaborators from 28 different countries, all of them sharing the path to knowledge and the goal of improving higher education for a better society.

## AMERICA

14 UNIVERSITIES

- Anahuac Xalapa University
- CETYS University
- Columbus University
- Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education
- National University Mayor de San Marcos
- Peruvian University of Applied Sciences (UPC)
- Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
- Technological Institute of Santo Domingo

- UNESP - São Paulo State University
- University La Salle, AC
- University of Guadalajara
- University of Lima
- University of Monterrey
- University of Piura

## EUROPE

42 UNIVERSITIES

- AKMI Metropolitan College
- Eastern European University Association (EEUA)
- EMUNI
- Erasmus Compostela
- QS Asia Quacquarely Symonds Pte. Ltd.

- Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI)
- Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
- Scholars at Risk

- Adam Mickiewicz University
- Grigol Robakidze University
- Ilia State University
- International Telematic University UNINETTUNO
- Jaume I University
- Karlstad University
- Kazimieras Simonavicius University
- Masaryk University
- Pan-European University

- Philipps-Universität Marburg
- Rey Juan Carlos University
- Technical University of Cartagena
- Technical University of Madrid
- University Business Academy in Novi Sad
- University Kore di Enna
- University of A Coruña
- University of Almeria
- University of Burgos
- University of Cadiz
- University of Extremadura
- University of Fribourg
- University of La Laguna
- University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- University of Leon
- University of Lleida
- University of Lodz
- University of Malaga
- University of Malta

- University of Minho
- University of Nantes
- University of Oviedo
- University of Pécs
- University of Regensburg
- University of Salamanca
- University of Santiago de Compostela
- University of Seville
- University of the Basque Country
- University of Valencia
- University of Vigo
- University of Worcester
- University of Zaragoza
- Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno

## ASIA

2 UNIVERSITIES

- University of Surabaya (UBAYA)
- Zhejiang Wanli University

## legend

- member universities
- associate members
- collaborators





## XXVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES

Originally scheduled to take place in Guimarães (Portugal), the XXVI General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities will go down in the network's history as the first such event to be held online. This decision reflects the desire of the University of Minho and the CGU to guarantee the continuity of the annual meeting

and the health and safety of their university communities.

The online event will retain the essence of previous assemblies, offering participants forums for debate on present and future challenges in higher education. As such, it will provide an opportunity to discuss the role of society in general, and universities in particular, in promoting sustainability for the sake of our futures.

It will also be a platform for the presentation of a report on the impact of COVID-19 at university level, which will be followed by a discussion of joint strategies.

FROM PORTUGAL  
*to Spain*



## XXVII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CGU

Santiago de Compostela will once again provide the venue for the General Assembly of the CGU in 2021. As was the case at the group's first gathering in 1993 and at the XVI General Assembly in 2010, Santiago will host the general assembly during a Holy Year (when the Feast of St James – 25 July – falls on a Sunday)

and it will once more bring together people and cultures from all over the world.

Throughout its 525 years of history, the University of Santiago de Compostela has faced difficult times, crises and challenges, among them the impact of the global coronavirus crisis. It is for this reason that the General Assembly of the Compostela Group is returning to the city where the project began, at what is a crucial time

in the development of the role played by higher education institutions in society today. This is a time when we need stable, supportive responses in order to overcome the difficulties affecting all business sectors.

Education, research and improved knowledge transfer to society in the age of COVID-19 will be the main lines of thought in a context shaped by the commitment of universities to sustainable development goals.





THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

During the course of our journey we have crossed paths with associations and institutions that share our mission and values and with whom we have reached agreements to help us fulfil them

*From left to right: Carla Martins, member of the CGU Executive Committee; Román Rodríguez, Regional Minister for Culture, Education and Universities of the Xunta de Galicia; and Eladio Fernández-Galiano, special advisor to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.*

In October 2019, the CGU and the European Institute of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe entered into an agreement to cooperate in the development of activities and interdisciplinary studies on cultural routes in the area of higher education. Through the Network of Universities on Cultural Route Studies, the two institutions will join forces to promote inter-university exchange and the mobility of students and researchers. In addition, we will work together

in designing research programmes and projects focusing on the cultural routes of the Council of Europe.



THE REGIONAL MINISTRY OF  
CULTURE AND TOURISM OF  
THE XUNTA DE GALICIA

October 2019 also saw the CGU and the Regional Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Xunta de Galicia (the regional government in this part of Spain) sign an agreement to work together in organising the International Meeting of Rectors on the Camino de Santiago.

*From left to right: María Teresa Carballeira, Executive Secretary of the CGU; Román Rodríguez, Regional Minister for Culture, Education and Universities of the Xunta de Galicia; and Cecilia Pereira, the Commissioner of Xacobeo 2021.*





## THE SOLEMN DECLARATION OF RECTORS ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 'RIBEIRA SACRA'

The Solemn Declaration of Rectors on the Camino de Santiago 'Ribeira Sacra' was signed by the representatives of the governing bodies of 21 of our member universities on 11 October 2019, in the Spanish municipality of Chantada. Through this declaration, the signatories pledged their support for the creation of favourable conditions

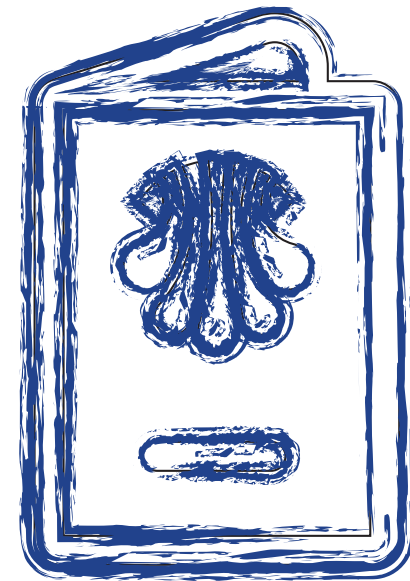
for the adhesion of universities to the sustainable development goals. They promised to establish common strategies to move forward with the creation of alliances for the new European University Initiative, endorsed by the European

Commission and focused on a modern approach and educational and research excellence. In addition, they gave their support to the Ribeira Sacra's application for UNESCO World Heritage Site status.

*Román Rodríguez, Regional Minister for Culture, Education and Universities of the Xunta de Galicia, and Marek Kręglewski, the President of the CGU (both pictured in the middle), are joined by representatives of local authorities and the governing bodies of our member universities.*



CORPORATE *initiatives*



## RECOGNITION AS AN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

In December 2019, the Spanish National Register of Associations declared our network an association of public benefit. This acknowledgement, which came into effect at the beginning of this year, entails a social recognition of the work undertaken by the university network over the last 26 years.

It comes with a series of benefits, such as free legal assistance, tax exemptions and the right to use the words 'declared an association of public benefit' after our name in all kinds of documents. Moreover, it implies an active commitment to transparency and accountability, in continuation of the path the network has taken over the years.

In the interests of giving this recognition greater visibility, we have designed a logo that reflects this new status and which now appears on the header of our website.



The gala dinner held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Compostela Group of Universities.

## CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CGU

Our network celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019. In looking to celebrate the occasion with as many members as possible, we invited you to join us in our anniversary video and give you the chance to share your recollections on your involvement with the network. This audiovisual time capsule also allowed us to honour the work undertaken by everyone who has sat on our governing bodies.

But what anniversary is complete without a party? To mark the premiere of the 25th anniversary video, the CGU hosted a gala dinner

on 9 October 2019 at the Hostal dos Reis Católicos in Santiago de Compostela. The evening's attendees were the first to watch the video and received a print copy of the commemorative publication *25 Years of Linking the Camino de Santiago and Higher Education*. Both the video and the publication are now available on the CGU's website.

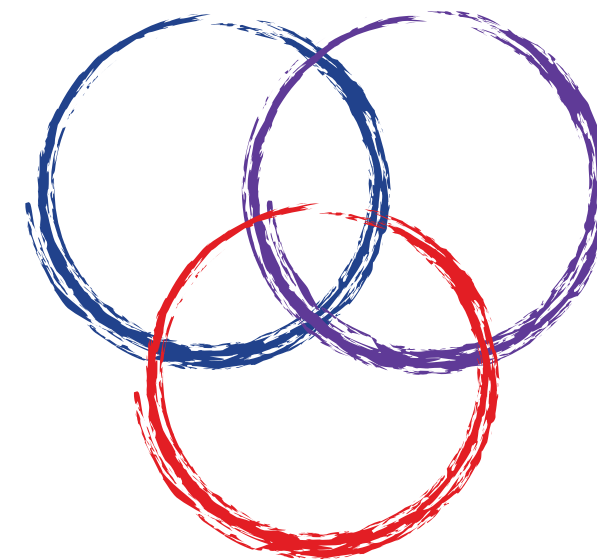
We also marked our 25th anniversary by designing a special logo for this content and the various print resources created for all the activities held last year.

## VIDEO AND PUBLICATION

Scan the QR code with your mobile phone.



*activities*





The XXIV International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia was presented to the musicologist Carlos Villanueva Abelairas. The award came as recognition of his prolific career in the study of Jacobean culture and music linked to the Camino de Santiago, not to mention the significant contribution he has made to the building of replicas of the musical instruments played by the figures that adorn the Pórtico de la Gloria at Santiago de Compostela Cathedral.

You can find out more about the musician and musicologist in this brief interview, which is also available in full on our website and YouTube channel.

## XXIV International Prize Grupo Compostela – Xunta de Galicia

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO WIN THE INTERNATIONAL PRIZE GRUPO COMPOSTELA-XUNTA DE GALICIA AT THIS POINT IN YOUR CAREER?**

*I was very surprised to receive this gift, which is also a very prestigious award, not least because of the connection it shares with interest in the Camino at research and practical levels. In fact, before receiving this award, I had planned to talk to the University of Santiago de Compostela about highlighting certain aspects of previous research by setting up, for example, a new exhibition on the musical instruments of the Pórtico de la Gloria.*

*And, of course, I want to record some new pilgrimage songs I have come across with young Galician chamber music groups. I think my collaboration with the CGU is going to be very dynamic and interesting for both parties.*

**WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN MEDIEVAL MUSIC AND THE PILGRIMAGE ROUTE TO SANTIAGO?**

*It began at an early stage, when the tradition of visiting Compostela took root. In terms of medieval music only a few early pilgrim songs have been preserved, because at that time oral tradition prevailed. What was sung by pilgrims from all over Europe was written down as literature. There are records of pilgrims singing at the tomb of the Apostle and on the various stages of the Way, but little of the medieval music recorded in scores has survived. However, we do have some examples in French manuscripts and in the Codex Calixtinus, where the first pilgrimage song, the Dum pater familias, was found. It is more than likely that pilgrims sang throughout the Middle Ages. The problem is that it was not preserved in the oral tradition, although it was passed down in the form of romances, songs, etc.*

**HOW DID THE PROJECT OF CREATING REPLICAS OF THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE PÓRTICO DE LA GLORIA COME ABOUT?**

*It came about in 1988. I remember being at a round table with Francisco Luengo, López Calo and Christian Rault. So you had two instrument makers and two researchers. And oddly enough, someone asked, 'What about your project?', because we had already built some instruments. And so, both the luthiers and the researchers said: 'We're going to do it.' In 1989 we signed an agreement with the Pedro Barrié de la Maza Foundation and the University of Santiago de Compostela. The project began with a conference and continued with a superb workshop with ten or 12 luthiers from all over Europe and Galicia. Then came the technical studies, the measurements, the instrument making and the playing. In October 1991, we gave a beautiful live concert at the Pórtico de la Gloria.*





Participants attend a lecture as part of the doctoral education meeting.

## The PhD Supervisor: A master, a partner or a service provider? The challenges of doctoral education meeting

The Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan organised this one-day doctoral education meeting on 28 June 2019 in Poznan (Poland) with the support of the CGU and SGroup.

Forming part of the institution's centenary celebrations, the meeting was devoted to the exchange of best practice in doctoral education, with a select band of experts from a number

of European universities presenting an overall picture of their hands-on experience in doctoral education.

## IX International Video Contest

The annual International Video Contest recognises the creativity and originality of students at CGU member universities. It allows our network to promote the use of audiovisual and digital technologies, giving students the opportunity to enhance their professional skills in these fields of knowledge

The 2020 call saw eight applications submitted by students from five member universities.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE

In her short film, Sandra Barreiro Cabanas, a student from the University of A Coruña (Spain), explained how her Erasmus experience was altered by COVID-19. Entitled *In Erasmus Together Everything is Better*, she reveals the closeness between the students she spent time with and the diversity at the heart of the Erasmus+ programme.



Sandra Barreiro Cabanas.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE

The video *School is a Feeling* was filmed and edited by Brandon Alberto Lopez Osorio, Samantha Priscyla Lopez Osorio, María Paula Peláez Cárdenas and Luz Irene Méndez Hernández, all of them students at Anahuac Xalapa University (Mexico).

Their aim was to show how teaching models have changed in these extraordinary times and how these changes have affected us in a positive way, because the desire to learn and better oneself can overcome any sense of frustration.



Brandon Alberto Lopez Osorio and Samantha Priscyla Lopez Osorio.



## Stella Junior

The Stella Junior mobility and training programme gives students from CGU member universities the chance to train at higher education institutions. Our goal is to provide them with an opportunity to enjoy an intercultural experience and improve their language and professional skills

In response to the 2020 call, ten member universities submitted placement offers for the programme. Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, however, the network decided to temporarily suspend the programme and is now looking to adapt it to the current situation.

Júlia Raluy Revés (left) and Dr Marijana Mladenov (right), Vice-Dean for International Cooperation at Novi Sad University Business Academy's Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary.

Last year, Júlia Raluy Revés from the University of Lleida (Spain) went to the University Business Academy in Novi Sad (Republic of Serbia). She talks about her experience below.

*My stay with the International Relations Office at the University Business Academy in Novi Sad, as part of the Stella Junior programme, has increased my interest in European and global politics. I have gained knowledge in this field and it has helped me to map out my future. My*

*academic and personal experiences in Novi Sad have been very satisfying. International mobility fosters respect for diversity and other cultures and provides an opportunity to live in different parts of the world, which is positive for personal*

*development. Furthermore, it encourages us to learn other languages and it increases cooperation between institutions. It has been a very satisfying way of completing my studies and I would definitely do it again.*



## IV Research Pitches Contest

A vehicle for furthering the research work of our members, the annual Research Pitches Contest recognises researchers from CGU member universities who can best tailor their message to the general public and express the relevance of their research and their contribution to society

In the 2020 call, researchers from seven member universities submitted a total of 25 pitches.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE

Presented by the researcher Benjámín Farkas from the University of Pécs (Hungary), *Investigating the Genetic Background of Autoimmune Diseases* introduces his ongoing work on the genetic background of Waldenström macroglobulinemia. A cancer of the white cells, its early symptoms can be identified in the oral cavity.



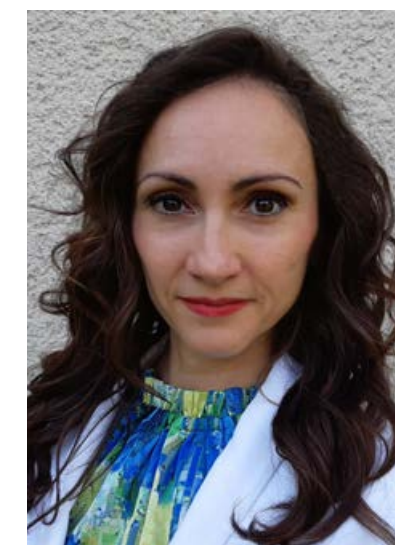
### 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE

The pitch *Solid State Materials for Ecological Refrigeration*, submitted by Jorge Salgado Beceiro from the University of A Coruña (Spain), explains the research work he is currently developing to find an eco-friendly alternative to polluting gases currently used in cooling systems.



### 3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE

In her pitch, entitled *Effects of Prenatal Dance Intervention on Foetal Neurodevelopment*, Beatrix Bánkyné Perjés, a researcher from the University of Pécs (Hungary), details the results of the investigation she has carried out and her objective of integrating this method into prenatal care.





For the 2020 programme call, 25 CGU and four CONAHEC member universities submitted 57 placement offers. The selection committee was poised to review the 55 eligible applications when the coronavirus pandemic struck. In taking a responsible approach to the situation, our network decided to put the call on hold and is now considering the option of blended mobility for future calls.



who hosted me. Their generosity was remarkable. I learned so much from these wonderful people that it ended up becoming much more than a professional experience.

Last year, Eva Gómez Diago from the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) was awarded a mobility grant for a placement at the Department of Financial Administration at the National University of Quilmes (Argentina).

During the coronavirus outbreak, the CGU has sought to broaden its online activities. With physical mobility currently restricted, websites are a key platform for disseminating projects, sharing content and locating international partners. In response, our network launched an online professional website building course aimed at the entire university community



*We had been working on our project for a few weeks before we started the CGU's online course Creating a Professional Website with WordPress and Divi, and all the content was already available. So we started designing the website from scratch. Our objectives and expectations were fulfilled thanks to what we learned on the course and, above all, to the guidance of the trainer, Adolfo Ramonde from Estudio Galego*



*de Diseño. It is mainly a practical course, so it is important to have a clear idea of the project, its objectives and the audience it is aimed at.*

*By the end of the course your website will definitely be ready. That was the case with ours, Mayores en casa activos ('Active elderly people at home'), which has been very well received, including in the media.*

## Programme for the Development of Virtual Exchange VE-COIL

The Programme for the Development of Virtual Exchange VE-COIL promotes cooperation and the internationalisation of learning among the members of the CGU. This internationalisation-at-home initiative is founded on three key aspects: an international network, VE-COIL calls and a training programme

In response to the fact that internationalisation at home and online learning are more important than ever in the new higher education landscape created by the pandemic, our network plans to expand the activities covered by this programme in 2021.



### AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

To ensure the implementation of this programme, the CGU created the Universities for Virtual Exchange Network, which will welcome member universities that are committed to bringing collaborative online international learning closer to their communities.

In 2019, we wrote to the highest representatives of our member universities to invite them to join this new network and to appoint a delegate for the programme. The role of VE-COIL delegates is to facilitate the dissemination of relevant information at their home universities, support teaching staff attending training workshops, and encourage them to take part in calls.

### VE-COIL CALLS

VE-COIL calls provide an opportunity to make contact with colleagues from around the world, share knowledge and teaching techniques, discover other cultures, and use different languages. Their goal is to develop intercultural awareness and a range of skills through collaborative work involving students and professors from different countries and cultures.

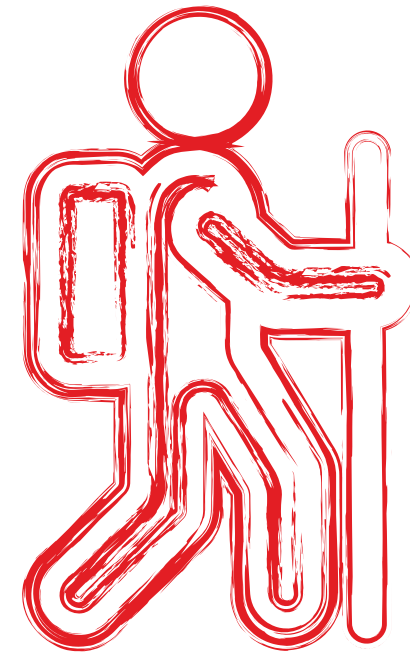
Some 12 professors signed up in the January 2020 VE-COIL call and four of them worked in pairs on collaboration projects at their universities. A total of 19 professors have registered for the August 2020 call, when the aim will be to create more of these pairs.

### A TRAINING PROGRAMME

In the first call for virtual exchanges, we noted that some professors were interested in signing up for this activity but wanted to learn how to develop these projects and acquire the necessary skills. In response, the CGU created a training programme consisting of four workshops and an online course on integrating virtual exchange into the university classroom. Some 15 professors from six member universities took the online course in July 2020.



THE COMPOSTELA ACADEMY ON THE  
**CAMINO**





## II CGU Student Workshop on the Camino de Santiago

The CGU and the University of Guadalajara organised the II CGU Student Workshop on the Camino de Santiago on 5 June 2019 in the Mexican city of Guadalajara. The

workshop featured a lecture by Professor Dr George Greenia, the recipient of the XXIII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia, as well as contributions

from international academics, who approached different aspects of the Camino de Santiago and the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro from their fields of expertise.

*Professor George Greenia gives a lecture at the workshop.*



The Senior Volunteers on the Camino programme provides for knowledge transfer and enriching experiences with the Camino de Santiago and the university environment at their core. The programme is financed by the Xunta de Galicia's Regional General Directorate of Youth, Participation and Volunteering.

For the 2019 call, eight placements were made available for people over the age of 55 and from Galicia or resident in the region. In the end, two volunteers joined the programme and accompanied participants in the Linking University Knowledge on the Camino project as they walked the pilgrimage route.

## Senior Volunteers on the Camino



SENIOR VOLUNTEERS ON THE CAMINO

Santiago de Compostela  
October 2019





The volunteers Ramón Fernández (centre, with backpack) and María Lozano (far right).

When I was asked if I wanted to take part in the Senior Volunteers on the Camino programme and accompany a group of students from different universities, I had no idea what would happen. It was an incredible few days, with lots of stories, great people, and many experiences.

It was a different experience to the ones I have had on the Camino since I started walking it in 2013. As I usually say, this is the magic of the Camino.

**María Lozano**

## EXPERIENCES OF THE SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

I am thankful to the Compostela Group of Universities for giving me the opportunity to share my many years of experience of the Camino de Santiago with young university students from Spain, Portugal and Mexico. It has been a unique experience for me in following the Camino de Santiago, because it showed me once again that there is more

to doing the Camino than just walking. The strength of the group was reflected at all times, under the banner of solidarity. I made some unforgettable friends, who will always remain in my thoughts.

**Ramón Fernández**



Participants in the first period of volunteer work are joined on the training course by representatives of the Asociación de Municipios del Camino.

## University Walking Community

The University Walking Community programme 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 this pilgrimage route.

Twenty-one students from nine CGU member universities were awarded grants to work as volunteers in municipalities belonging to the

Asociación de Municipios del Camino de Santiago and located along the French Route, from July to September 2019. These grants covered local transport, meals and accommodation during the volunteer period and a training course before it began.





Participants in the second period of volunteer work.

# UNIVERSITY WALKING COMMUNITY



From left to right: Pablo Adrián Ramírez Fuentes, Adriana Galván Losada, Minerva Carmona and Julianni del Pilar Namuche Mego.

*It is an extraordinary experience of personal fulfilment. Volunteering is not about giving your time for free, because you get something back that you just cannot quantify.*

*I am grateful to the association for giving me this opportunity and I'm taking a lovely memory of the town of Santiago home with me.*

**Julianni Del Pilar Namuche Mego**  
UNIVERSITY OF PIURA

*My experience as a volunteer has been very rewarding, one of the best in my life, because it has given me a lot personally. Pilgrims come and tell you their stories.*

*I wish I could do it every year, find a few days to come here and have a spiritual journey of my own, just like the people who walk the Camino.*

**Minerva Carmona Fernández**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALMERIA

## EXPERIENCES OF THE UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERS

**Here is what some of them had to say about their experience last summer**

*I am very grateful to the association and I was pleasantly surprised by how well I was treated throughout the project. I think everyone with real faith in the world should have the opportunity to experience this.*

*It is rewarding to see people reach their goal and be thankful for the treatment and service you are giving them.*

**Pablo Adrián Ramírez Fuentes**  
ANÁHUAC XALAPA UNIVERSITY

*You realise what the Camino really means, the huge significance that the pilgrimage has in people's lives and in your own life as a volunteer. Personally, I have never walked the Camino, but I do feel tied to it now by everything I have experienced.*

**Adriana Galván Losada**  
ANÁHUAC XALAPA UNIVERSITY



## The International Meeting of Rectors on the Camino

The CGU and the Regional Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Xunta de Galicia came together to organise the International Meeting of Rectors on the Camino de Santiago. This event, held in Santiago de Compostela and Chantada (Spain) on 9-11 October 2019, came about with the aim of bringing the region of Galicia closer to the rectors of CGU member universities. Additionally, it sought to provide an open space for debating and analysing the implementation of sustainable development goals in higher education and the European Universities Initiative, endorsed by the European Commission.



*Román Rodríguez, Regional Minister for Culture, Education and Universities of the Xunta de Galicia, and Marek Kreglewski, President of the CGU (both pictured in the middle), are joined by representatives of the governing bodies of our member universities.*



## LECTURES

Representatives from 21 member universities attended lectures given by experts such as Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, the head of the European Commission's Higher

Education Unit, and Federico Buyolo, the former director general of the Office of the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda (a Spanish government development initiative). In addition,

they networked with colleagues in activities such as thematic workshops and working groups on topics relating to society, welfare and technical resources.



## EXPERIENCES OF THE RECTORS FROM PARTICIPATING MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

This is what some of the rectors from participating member universities had to say about the event



Alejandro Díaz Morcillo, rector of the Technical University of Cartagena

*I would like to thank and congratulate the organisers of the meeting for their initiative and the superb organisation of the event. I cycled the Camino in 1993, when I was 21-year-old university student. This time, 26 years on, I can*

*say that the experience was shorter but every bit as enriching, albeit with a different focus, obviously: the future of higher education institutions, and, specifically, key actions for now and the next few years through the SDGs and the European Universities initiative.*

*I have special memories of the signing of the declaration, because of the importance of the act and the setting in which it took place. I hope the commitments made in the declaration can become genuine realities in our universities in the coming years.*



Enrique González Álvarez, rector of University La Salle.

*Participating in the International Meeting of Rectors on the Camino has been a very enriching experience thanks to two fundamental aspects. Firstly, the topics presented at the meeting were quite interesting. They updated us on developments and we now know the direction that higher education is taking worldwide. Secondly, in meeting and speaking with colleagues from different parts of the world we were able to share experiences and learn from each other, all in a spirit of cordiality and friendship that fosters personal interaction.*





Julio Abalde,  
rector of the University of A Coruña.

*I think it is very important and significant that European universities that share the values of the Camino make these sustainable development goals their own. This is an area in which we also have to be reliable benchmarks for society, as was made clear at the international meeting of rectors. This is a good opportunity to enable cooperation, knowledge transfer and the sharing of perspectives and experiences that bring our campus strategies into line with the Millennium Goals.*



Santiago García Granda,  
rector of the University of Oviedo.

*It was a perfect gathering, very well hosted by my friend Antonio Lopez Díaz, the rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela, and his team, who created a wonderful environment for a very fruitful discussion around the concept of European universities and their involvement in the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. These few days were very productive in terms of fostering joint initiatives for the development of education and research programmes, all with the shared aim of achieving the SDGs led by the CGU.*

## EXPERIENCES OF THE RECTORS FROM PARTICIPATING MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

*We had an incredible time in Santiago de Compostela and A Coruña, but I shall never forget the Diomondi-Chantada walk on the Camino Winter Way and arriving in Ribeira Sacra. Congratulations to our president, Professor Marek Kreglewski, for organising this successful gathering, and to our executive secretary, María Teresa Carballeira, for making it possible. Thanks a lot to all of you. I am really looking forward to seeing you all again the next time the Compostela Group meets.*



*María Teresa Carballeira Riveira, Executive Secretary of the CGU, and Manuel Freire-Garabal Núñez, a member of the Executive Committee of our network, with participants from the universities of Minho (Portugal), Oviedo (Spain) and Monterrey (Mexico).*

## Linking University Knowledge on the Camino

The Linking University Knowledge on the Camino project was set up to promote the heritage and legacy of the Camino de Santiago around the world and to bring university research in the fields of science and technology closer to local communities in the Galician municipalities located on the pilgrimage route.

It took place on 18-25 October 2019 in Santiago de Compostela and 17 Galician municipalities, and

was co-financed by the Xunta de Galicia as part of the O Teu Xacobeo programme. The project also had the support of the European Institute of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

The final meeting of the event saw students present the projects they developed over the course of the week, with prizes awarded to the two most outstanding projects.





### BEST UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE FOR THE ELDERLY, MOBILITY, RURAL AREAS AND PILGRIMS

The “Un Buen Camino” (A Good Way) initiative, developed by a group of students and a professor from the University of Monterrey, seeks to create a non-invasive communication link between pilgrims and people living along the route. The link will

be created by technological tools that contribute to an improvement in mobility issues, citizen participation and the pilgrim experience.

The group was formed by the professor Juan José Martínez and the students Vicente Montemayor, Yulyeed Avila, Angela Lopez, Sergio Caldera and Ana Lucia Farias.

*From left to right (back row): Manuel Freire-Garabal Núñez and Carla Martins, members of the Executive Committee of our network; Eladio Fernández-Galiano, special advisor to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme; María Teresa Carballeira Riveira, Executive Secretary of the CGU; and Domingo González Lopo, Professor of Modern History at the University of Santiago de Compostela, with the winners (front).*

*From left to right (back row): María Teresa Carballeira Riveira, Executive Secretary of the CGU; Manuel Freire-Garabal Núñez and Carla Martins, members of the Executive Committee of our network; Eladio Fernández-Galiano, special advisor to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme; and Domingo González Lopo, Professor of Modern History at the University of Santiago de Compostela, with the winners (front).*

### BEST INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTER-UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAMINO

The Camino de Santiago Network initiative proposed the creation of a system of intermediate points of assistance (PIA) and a digital register for local residents, pilgrims and volunteers. The PIA network would provide ongoing support for

pilgrims, while the digital resource would offer updated information, the digital storage of stamps and access to personalised services. The initiative would create a network of volunteerism and trust between pilgrims and local residents, especially for women and the elderly.

The group was formed by the professor Salvador Beato Bergua and the students Adrián Pérez Sánchez, Rafael Ramírez Eudave, Yulyeed Avila, Vicente Montemayor and Vimbai Pachawo.





## EXPERIENCES OF THE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



Juan José Martínez, Professor of Leadership and Group Dynamics at the University of Monterrey.

*I have done the Camino de Santiago five times now and each experience has been different. However, it is important to emphasise that doing it as an academic-training activity enhances learning, self-development and interculturality.*

*Having the opportunity to be with students from another country on a daily basis, as*

*we learn from ourselves and face the physical, emotional, spiritual and mental challenge of taking each step towards the Cathedral, is a unique learning process.*

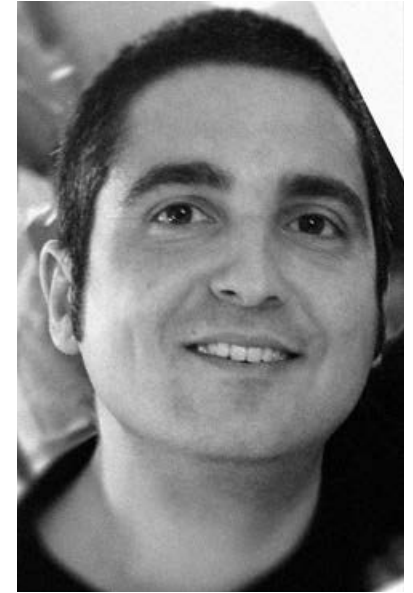
*I think that every university and anyone engaged in educational development should be promoting activities like this.*

*Several weeks after this experience, I realised that it was also a representation of Heraclitus' paradox, that 'no man ever steps in the same river twice'. The Camino de Santiago is not a static route; it is a constant flow in which every experience is intimate and every search is conducted under our own spiritual guidance. In my experience, the the Camino de Santiago is both*

*a mirror and a river. I have seen the rivers that already existed in me but which I mistakenly regarded as still water. The Camino is an excellent reminder that life is dynamic and that new waters always pass through, even along the paths of our old rivers. And the most important thing is that it is always an opportunity to share and to give thanks for everything.*



Rafael Ramírez Eudave, a student at the University of Minho.



Salvador Beato Bergua, Professor of Local Development at the University of Oviedo.

*Anthropology and other social sciences say that life is made of metaphors and that without them communication between human beings and their own development would be very difficult. When you ask what life is, the answer on many occasions is 'a way'. The Camino de Santiago is the material, physical expression of that metaphor. There is*

*always a beginning and an end to it, which is the beginning of something new. Part of you can be born, grow and die, and be born again in a different way, in a perfect cycle, as is everything in nature. For geographers, the Camino is a wonderful chain of landscapes that encompasses a significant number of Iberian territorial and cultural resources.*





*From left to right: José Temporão Monte, councillor, Valença Municipal Council; Miguel Taín Guzmán, Director of the Cátedra do Camiño de Santiago e das Peregrinacións of the University of Santiago de Compostela; Enrique Cabaleiro González, Mayor of Tui; and María Teresa Carballera Rivera, Executive Secretary of the CGU.*

## Camino Portugués de Santiago: A Cultural Heritage for the New Europe International Congress

The academic and experience-based activities that made up the III Camino Portugués de Santiago: A Cultural Heritage for the New Europe International Congress took place in the Spanish towns of Tui and Santiago de Compostela and the

Portuguese municipality of Valença on 14–16 November 2019.

The congress was organised jointly by our network, the Cátedra do Camiño de Santiago e das Peregrinacións of the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

and the Càtedra d'Estudis Jurídics Locals Màrius Viadel i Martín of the Rovira i Virgili University (Spain). The organisers offered 12 grants to cover accommodation and meals for students and doctoral students interested in participating in the event.



*From left to right: María Teresa Carballera Rivera, Executive Secretary of the CGU; Manuel Rodríguez López, Mayor of Valença; and Miguel Taín Guzmán, Director of the Cátedra do Camiño de Santiago e das Peregrinacións of the University of Santiago de Compostela.*



EXPERIENCES OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
PARTICIPANTS

Yufan Song, student  
at the University of  
Santiago de Compostela.



Attending the congress as a scholarship student was undoubtedly a milestone in my journey of learning about the Camino de Santiago. Its rewarding seminars and academic field trips have broadened my knowledge and perspective of the pilgrimage to Compostela as a piece of cultural heritage that is a thousand years old. In addition, it has given me a valuable opportunity to meet professors and researchers from a number of disciplines and representatives from relevant sectors who have inspiring insights into the material. It has truly encouraged me to carry out further research and to play an active role in the field.

I was very interested in the topics covered by the congress because I see this event as a unique opportunity to learn about the links between the heritage of Spain and Portugal, two countries I am researching from the perspective of art history. It was an enriching experience in a number of ways. The dynamics of the event meant we discovered different places in both countries while attending a full programme of presentations providing ample opportunities for debate. Then there was the cultural, stimulating side to the congress, thanks to which we got to explore and discover all these charming parts of the Camino de Santiago that are steeped in history. We also had the opportunity to meet other researchers, academics and students and establish a network of contacts and shared interests with them.

María del Castillo  
García Romero,  
researcher at the  
University of Seville's  
Art History Department

PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK CAMINO DE SANTIAGO Y PATRIMONIO  
CULTURAL. UNA VISIÓN JURÍDICA INTEGRADORA

Our network, the Cátedra do Camiño de Santiago e das Peregrinacións of the University of Santiago de Compostela and the Càtedra d'Estudis Jurídics Locals Màrius Viadel i Martín of the Rovira i Virgili University worked together in the publication of the book *Camino de Santiago y patrimonio cultural. Una visión jurídica integradora* (The Camino de Santiago and Cultural Heritage: An Integrating Legal Vision).

The publication discusses the latest legal developments as they relate to both tangible and intangible cultural assets and their diversity. It focuses on the cultural route of the Camino de Santiago, to which it devotes an in-depth analysis before addressing other contemporary artistic manifestations such as graffiti, heritage management in the new model of the smart city, and interaction with other areas, such as tourism, museums, urban planning and the environment.

Josep Ramon Fuentes i Gasó  
María Teresa Carballeira Rivera  
Domingo Luís González Lopo  
(Editores)

Camino de Santiago  
y patrimonio cultural.  
Una visión jurídica integradora

ADMINISTRATIVO

**Atelier**  
LIBROS JURÍDICOS





## PHOTO EXHIBITION: THE WAY OF ST. JAMES AND EUROPEAN IDENTITY

The CGU gave its support to the photo exhibition *The Way of St. James and European Identity*, held at the University of Santiago de Compostela's Colegio de Fonseca on 19 July–31 September 2019, and staged by the University of Regensburg (Germany).

The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 revived links between Pilsen (Czech Republic) and Regensburg (Germany), giving life to new relationships between the institutions of both cities. This exhibition owes its existence to them and provides a pictorial summary of the Czech-

German pilgrimage that took place on the occasion of the biannual general meeting of German Catholics in 2014, when a group of pilgrims walked the section between the Czech capital of Prague and Regensburg.

## PUBLICATION OF AN INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE: FROM THE CASTELLS TO THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

The CGU, the Cátedra do Camiño de Santiago e das Peregrinacións of the University of Santiago de Compostela, and the Càtedra d'Estudis Jurídics Locals Màrius Viadel i Martín of the Rovira i Virgili University will continue their collaboration with the launch of the book *An Intangible Cultural Heritage: From the Castells to the Camino de Santiago* in 2020. In it more than 30 expert jurists, historians, art historians and anthropologists analyse the characteristics and nature of intangible heritage. It also provides several examples of intangible human heritage.

Published by Tirant Lo Blanch, the book will be launched in November 2020.







# Xacobeo 2021

## O TEU XACOBEO

The CGU submitted three projects for the Xunta de Galicia's O Teu Xacobeo call for proposals in December 2019 and July 2020. Before the call could be completed, however, it was postponed due to the global pandemic.

The three projects focus on the heritage of the Camino de Santiago. Our member universities will be invited to participate in them if they are approved for funding.

*projects*







Participants who did their internships in Azores..

## GALEUROP

The Galeuropa programme was set up to enhance the employment prospects and professional skills of young unemployed people under the age of 30 and who are not in education or training. Thanks to the programme, participants have been offered international vocational training opportunities.

The programme is co-financed by the Youth Employment Initiative and the European Social Fund.

In the last two years, 28 young people have taken part in mobility placements in Portugal, Italy and the United Kingdom. They each received scholarships including a language-training course and covering the cost of accommodation and meals. After completing their internships, the participants were all given a certificate confirming they had received non-formal youth training.

## EVALUATE

The EVALUATE project was a European policy experiment funded by the Erasmus+ programme and which studied the impact of a telecollaborative model of virtual exchange on student teachers.

Between 2017 and 2018, the project consortium trained teacher trainers and organised virtual exchanges

involving more than 1,000 student teachers at teacher-training institutions. As an integral part of one of their courses, students interacted and collaborated with partner classes from other countries. The research team then analysed the learning gains from these exchanges using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. They also worked with representatives from European

ministries of education to understand how virtual exchange could be upscaled in teacher education across Europe.

The project's final conference brought 160 experts from 34 countries together at the University of Leon in September 2019. The project was awarded a final assessment rating of 90/100 by the European Commission.

*From left to right: Robert O'Dowd, EVALUATE project coordinator; Juan Francisco García Marín, Rector of the University of Leon; and Sarah Guth, President of UNICollaboration, at the official opening of the project's final conference.*





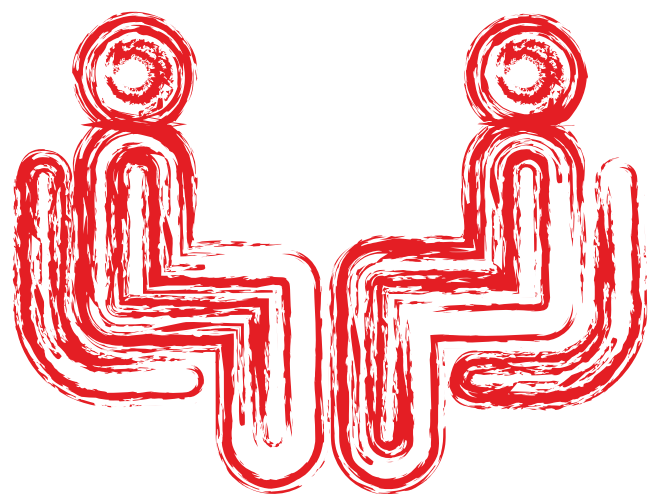
CALOHEX is an extension of CALOHEE in another five subject areas: business

The project got under way in February 2020 with a call for cooperation in its feasibility study. One of the main goals of the study is to determine if students are ready to play their role in society after graduating and meeting academic standards relating to their area of specialisations.

Our network helped promote both initiatives by giving them visibility through our communication channels.



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.

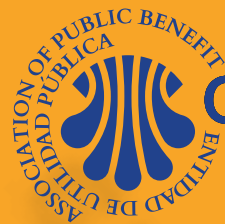
Next, follow these simple steps:

- 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!







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