

The international seminar Camino de Santiago and Europe highlights the role of the pilgrimage route as a vehicle for European culture

- The academic activity is part of the programme of activities designed by the Xunta de Galicia to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the declaration of the Camino as the first cultural route of the Council of Europe
- The seminar was organized by the Chair *Camino de Santiago y de las Peregrinaciones* of the University of Santiago de Compostela, in collaboration with the Compostela Group of Universities

Santiago de Compostela, 23 October 2017 – The international seminar Camino de Santiago y Europa, held at the University of Santiago de Compostela, analysed the trace of the pilgrimage route in culture and European construction. Between the 23rd and 25th October, more than 50 international experts and students will participate in lectures and debates addressing the legal, social and cultural aspects of the *Camino*.

At the opening of the seminar, the director of the Galician Agency of Tourism, Nava Castro Domínguez, explained that the seminar is an opportunity to "remember" one of the "most universal symbols" in Galicia and "review the process of building its identity". When referring to the academic program of the seminar, María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, Executive Secretary of the Compostela Group of Universities, highlighted that the main "personalities related to the elevation of this patrimony at a global level" will participate in it.

For his part, the councilman responsible for the Area of Citizen Spaces in Santiago de Compostela, Jorge Duarte Vázquez, emphasized the importance of "involving all administrations in the preservation" of the Way and "the need to make citizens see" the importance of conservation of this heritage. While the vice-rector of Internationalization of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Almudena Hospido Quintana, appealed to the nexus that joins the university and pilgrimage route. "The spirit of the Camino is present in our daily activity, in which we encourage the promotion and organization of initiatives that contribute to the cultural and academic debate, through the work of renowned researchers", she explained.

Allocation of the economic contribution XXI International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia

The awardee with the XXI International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia, Marcelino Oreja Aguirre, and the quality director of Aldeas Infantiles SOS Galicia, Felisa Carrera, signed the agreement of donation of the economic contribution (6000 euros) of the prize. Carrera thanked Oreja Aguirre for his generosity and commitment to the most vulnerable children, manifested through the donation. She also said that it will allow them to continue with the expansion of their programs in Galicia, with which they will support these children in their education and facilitate their social and professional integration.

The donation ceremony was attended by the rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Juan Viaño Rey, and the Conselleiro of Culture, Education and University Planning, Román Rodríguez; and the Executive Secretary of the Compostela Group of Universities, Teresa Carballeira Rivera.

Compostela Group of Universities

The Compostela Group of Universities (GCU) is a non-profit international organisation that works for fostering cooperation and promoting dialogue in all areas of higher education. The GCU took its first steps in 1994 and since its creation, it has grown to unite more than 60 universities from all over the world. All the pilgrims of the Compostela Group of Universities share the values of cooperation and integration developed around Saint James' Way.