



2024-2025  
Annual Report





The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) took its first steps in 1994 and has grown in size over the years, with academic pilgrims from more than 60 universities across the world having since joined our international nonprofit higher education association. Acting as a

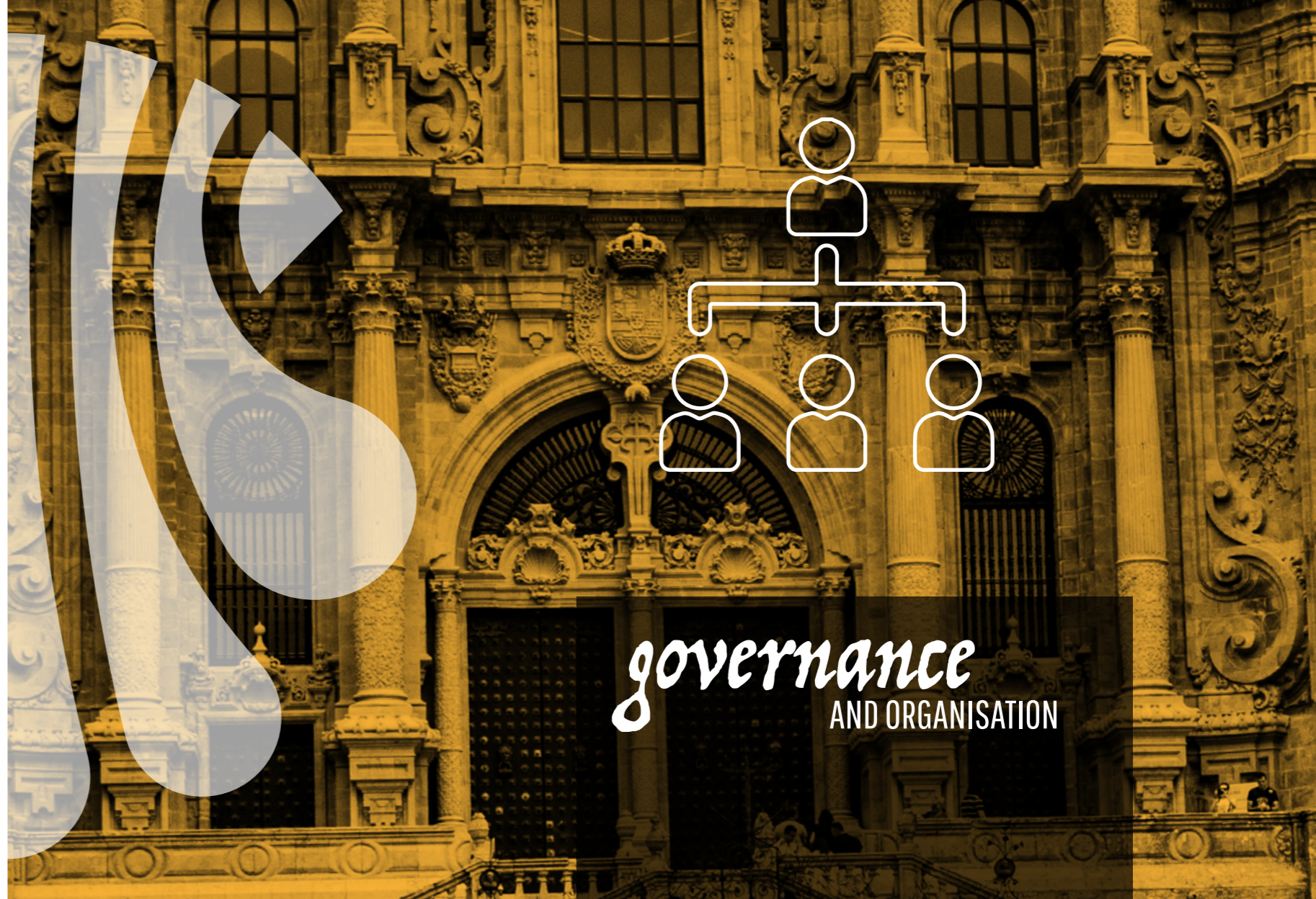
crossroads for all of them, the CGU has become one of the largest such networks in Europe.

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

The annual report of the Compostela Group of Universities is our pole star, the guide that illuminates our future, without forgetting the traces of our steps over the past year. Join us on this journey!



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*governance*  
AND ORGANISATION

Two years to the day after being elected President at the General Assembly in Seville, I share some reflections on our collective journey and achievements over the past year.

Together, we have walked a path of growth and transformation. Initiatives such as the University Walking Community or the Volunteering with Heritage – Bosques GAL programmes affirm that our network is more than a community of universities: it is a space where bridges are built, solidarity is nurtured, and environmental and social sustainability are embraced. Inspired by these values, this year's new feature, introduced at our annual meeting at UTAD —the Compostela Connection on Sustainability— was a highlight.

The CGU has equally expanded its global engagement, welcoming new members and launching an exciting

pilot project for our alumni. For the first time, graduates from our member universities can connect across borders, united by the diverse alma maters that weave the fabric of the CGU. We have also joined forces with the EUniWell and EDUC, two European University Alliances, further strengthening our shared mission.

Our work in building funded collaborations has been equally fruitful. Two new Erasmus+ projects have been secured, reinforcing pathways for mobility across the Atlantic, thus strengthening the CGU's role as a driver of international cooperation.

Our reach into the cultural sphere has grown as well. The first International Conference on Cultural Routes in Santiago de Compostela last November, organised in close collaboration with European Institute

for Cultural Routes —the distinguished winner of the 29th International Prize Grupo de Compostela-Xunta de Galicia —stands as a testament to our ability to bring knowledge, dialogue, and creativity into shared spaces.

Looking ahead, the horizon is filled with opportunities. By deepening our alliances, advancing digital and green transitions, and empowering our students and staff, we will continue to shape higher education and contribute to a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable society. May we carry forward the energy, determination, and sense of purpose needed to turn these aspirations into lasting impact.

**Carla Martins**  
PRESIDENT OF THE  
COMPOSTELA GROUP OF  
UNIVERSITIES





**Carla Martins**

President · 2023-2027  
University of Minho (Portugal)  
Associate Professor of Psychology



**Slavomír Rudenko**

Vice President · 2023-2027  
Pan-European University (Slovakia)  
Director for International Affairs



**María Teresa Carballeira Rivera**

Executive Secretary · 2023-2027  
University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)  
Professor in Administrative Law at the Faculty of Law



**María Fernández Flecha**

Treasurer · 2023-2025  
Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (Peru)  
Head of Academic Internationalisation



**Carina Eriksson**

Member · 2023-2027  
Karlstad University (Sweden)  
Director of International Relations



**David Green**

Member · 2023-2027  
University of Worcester (United Kingdom)  
Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive



**István Tarrósy**

Member · 2023-2027  
University of Pécs (Hungary)  
Director of the International Centre



**José Celso Freire-Junior**

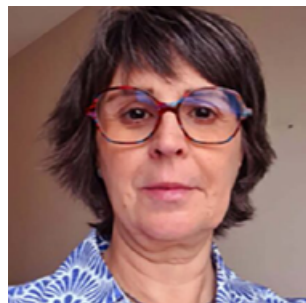
Member · 2023-2027  
UNESP- São Paulo State University (Brazil)  
Associate Provost for International Affairs



**Julio Sánchez Maríñez**

Member · 2023-2025†  
Technological Institute of Santo Domingo-INTEC (Dominican Republic)  
Rector

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the members of our Executive Committee for the 2023-2027 term for their invaluable contribution to the growth of our network and their tireless efforts in achieving its goals



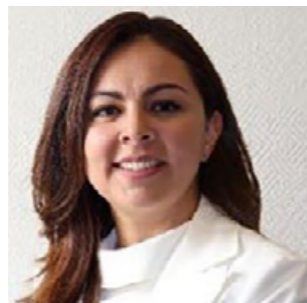
Virginia  
Díaz

Member · 2023-2025  
Technical University of Madrid (Spain)  
Deputy Vice Rector for International  
Cooperation and director of the Area for  
Latin America and Africa



Jin  
Taira

Member · 2023-2027  
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria University  
(Spain)  
Vice Rector for Internationalisation,  
Mobility and International Projection



Valeria  
Padilla Navarro

Member · 2023-2027  
University of Guadalajara (Mexico)  
Coordinator for Internationalisation



Antonio  
López Díaz

Permanent Member · 2023-2027  
University of Santiago de Compostela  
(Spain)  
Rector



Marek  
Kręglewski

Nato member · 2023-2027  
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań  
(Poland)  
Full Professor at the Faculty of  
Chemistry

The CGU brings together 74 members and collaborative members from 29 different countries. The list of institutions continues to grow and, more importantly, they have become an active and permanent part of the network

## AMERICA

22 UNIVERSITIES

- Anahuac University
- Autonomous University of Chiapas
- Autonomous University of Chihuahua
- Autonomous University of Guerrero
- CETYS University
- Columbus University
- ESAN University
- National University Mayor de San Marcos
- Peruvian University of Applied Sciences
- Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
- Technological Institute of Santo Domingo
- Technological of Monterrey
- São Paulo State University
- Universidad del Pacífico

- University of the East UNIVO
- University La Salle Bajío
- La Salle Morelia University
- La Salle University
- University of Guadalajara
- University of Lima
- University of Monterrey
- University of Piura

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

## EUROPE

42 UNIVERSITIES

- Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
- Cadiz University
- Ilia State University
- International Telematic University UNINETTUNO
- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
- University Jaume I
- Karlstad University
- University of Lodz
- 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
- Kore University of Enna
- University of A Coruña
- University of Almería
- University of Burgos
- University of Extremadura
- University of Fribourg
- University of La Laguna
- University of La Rioja
- University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- University of León
- University of Lleida
- University of Malaga
- University of Malta

- University of Minho
- 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 Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro
- University of Valencia
- University of Vigo
- University of Worcester
- Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno
- University of Zaragoza

- AKMI Metropolitan College
- CETT- Barcelona School of Tourism, Hospitality and Gastronomy
- Eastern European University Association (EEUA)
- EMUNI
- Erasmus Compostela
- QS Asia Quacquarelly Symonds Pte. Ltd.

## legend

- Member universities
- Associate members
- Collaborators

## FROM PORTUGAL 2025



## XXXI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNIVERSITY OF TRÁS-OS-MONTES  
AND ALTO DOURO, PORTUGAL  
SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2025

The XXXI General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities was held from September 14 to 16, 2025, at the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD) in Vila Real, Portugal. Founded in 1986, UTAD was renowned for its applied research, educational innovation, and commitment to sustainability and regional development, in an area recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The programme included cultural activities, academic discussions on higher education and sustainability, and the presentation of the Compostela Group – Xunta de Galicia International Prize, offering participants an experience that combined university cooperation, academic excellence, and cultural heritage.

## XXXII GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY,  
POLAND 2026

The XXXII General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities will take place in 2026 at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań, Poland. AMU has a long-standing history with the Compostela Group, having previously hosted the General Assembly in 2006 and again in 2014.

The university was once again chosen as the venue after welcoming the Executive Committee earlier that year, during its April 2025 meeting. On that occasion, members had the opportunity to visit several of AMU's key facilities, including the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center and the University Library in Poznań, among others.

This new edition of the General Assembly at AMU will strengthen the ties between the university and the Compostela Group, reaffirming its commitment to international cooperation and academic excellence.

## TO POLAND 2026



*Gabriela Cáceres (Head of Financial Resources) and Juan Pablo Carvallo (Chief Executive Officer) of CEDIA with Carla Martins (Chairperson) and Teresa Carballeira (Executive Secretary) of the CGU*

## CEDIA Joins Compostela Group of Universities, Strengthening Ties in the Americas

The Ecuadorian Corporation for the Development of Research and Academia (CEDIA) has joined the Compostela Group of Universities, expanding the network's presence in Latin America. This new partnership enhances collaboration in innovation, science, and sustainable development across member institutions.



## Renewal of Cooperation Agreement with the University of Santiago de Compostela

In January 2025, the Compostela Group of Universities renewed the cooperation agreement with the University of Santiago de Compostela. This agreement enables undergraduate and master's students from the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences to carry out curricular and extracurricular academic internships.



*corporate*  
INITIATIVES

## CGU Participates in the 13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

Presentation of the 1st International Academic Conference “Universities and Cultural Routes” to Highlight Higher Education’s Role in Promoting and Sustaining Europe’s Cultural Routes

The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU), represented by its Executive Secretary Prof. Dr. María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, took part in the 13th Annual Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the



Council of Europe, held from 25 to 27 September 2024 in Visegrád and Budapest, Hungary. During the Forum, Carballeira presented the 1st International Academic Conference Universities and Cultural Routes, an

initiative led by the CGU to strengthen the role of higher education in the promotion, study and sustainability of Europe’s Cultural Routes.

*Prof. Dr. María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, Executive Secretary of the CGU, presenting the 1st International Academic Conference Universities and Cultural Routes.*



*Teresa Carballeira, executive secretary of the CGU; Guilherme Augusto Borges Pereira, pro-rector of the University of Minho; Iris Carmo Silva Saraiva, assistant to the pro-rector; and Eva López Dobarro, president of USC Alumni.*

## CGU and Alumni USC Advance Tresemes Project

On 6 May 2025, the Compostela Group of Universities was represented by Manuel Garabal at EUniWell’s first Associated Partners Meeting held at USC. The event gathered 16 institutions to promote cooperation on well-being and strengthen universities’ engagement with society.

## Meeting with the Regional Government of Galicia

On 18 July 2024, the President of the Compostela Group of Universities and the Rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela met with the Regional Minister of Education, Science, Universities and Vocational Training, together with the Secretary-General for Universities. The purpose of the meeting was to present the new executive body of the CGU and its Strategic Plan 2024–2027, with the aim of redefining the lines of collaboration between the institutions.



*Antonio López, Rector of the USC; Carla Martins, President of the CGU; Román Rodríguez González, Regional Minister of Education, Science, Universities and Vocational Training; and Secretary General for Universities José Alberto Díez de Castro*

## Chair of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies

The Compostela Group of Universities was entrusted with the Chair of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies for the biennium November 2024 – November 2026, represented by Prof. Carla Martins, President of the CGU. The recommendation was made by the EICR Secretariat, considering the experience gained by the CGU in hosting the 1st International Conference of the Network. The developed expertise will be shared with the university hosting the next edition of the conference through light coordination online meetings.

## CGU Executive Committee Meets at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań

Strengthening international cooperation through joint sessions, campus activities, and cultural exchange in Poznań

In April 2025, Adam Mickiewicz University hosted the Compostela Group of Universities Executive Committee meeting, gathering members from eight countries both in person and virtually. The event included sessions at the university and visits to local facilities, fostering collaboration and exchange.



*CGU President Carla Martins (University of Minho), CGU Vice-President Slavomír Rudenko (Pan-European University), Executive Secretary María Teresa Carballeira Rivera (University of Santiago de Compostela), and committee members Carina Eriksson (Karlstad University) and José Celso Freire Junior (Júlio de Mesquita Filho State University of São Paulo – UNESP), as well as CGU member and host of the meeting, Marek Kreglewski (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan).*

## The University and Students Forum – 2024

The Compostela Group of Universities, represented by its President, participated in the University and Students Forum, which brings together university networks, European University Alliances, and student organisations. The forum provides consultative input on the digitisation roadmap and promotes coordination among networks and alliances across Europe.



*activities*

## XXIX International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia

**EICR honored for three decades of advancing culture, heritage preservation, and European values through the Cultural Routes programme**

The European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) has been awarded the International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia for its nearly 30-year commitment to promoting culture, heritage, and European values. The award ceremony took place on 15 September 2025 during the XXXI CGU General Assembly. The jury met online on Tuesday, 20 May 2025, at 17:30 (GMT+2) from Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and appointed the EICR in recognition of its almost three decades of work promoting culture, heritage

conservation, and the protection of common European values of community and citizenship, essential for the continuity of a united Europe across the centuries. The jury also highlighted the role of the EICR as the body responsible for guaranteeing and developing the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme across the 50 countries that have signed the Cultural Convention.

INSTITUT  
EUROPÉEN  
DES  
ITINÉRAIRES  
CULTURELS



EUROPEAN  
INSTITUTE  
OF  
CULTURAL  
ROUTES

## Mini-Interview: European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) and the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU)

**WHAT DOES RECEIVING THE XXIX INTERNATIONAL PRIZE GRUPO COMPOSTELA – XUNTA DE GALICIA MEAN FOR THE EICR?**

I see this prize in first place as a recognition of the work of the Institute, and all that it represents, for supporting the development and construction of European unity and ideals based on solid values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – and their embodiment by the thousands of European individuals and associations who give life to the Cultural Routes and, therefore, to the programme. I interpret it therefore as a recognition of the values that unite all these stakeholders and also the hardships that go with the construction of a true European project, carried by grassroots organisations and organised by 43 countries committed to the

multilateral cooperation that is central to peace and cooperation in Europe.

Symbolically, I experience a feeling of “homecoming” because of the nearly embryonic connection of the Cultural Routes programme, Santiago de Compostela and, obviously, Galicia. The genesis of our programme, and the Institute with it, is very intimately connected with the Santiago Declaration. This prize feels therefore as “natural”, as if no justification was needed. But it is indeed a great honour and joy to be recognized by this unique prize and to be in the unique company of the previous recipients of the prize.

**TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO STRENGTHEN TIES AND ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE EICR AND THE UNIVERSITIES THAT ARE PART**

**OF THE COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES (CGU)?**

Very appropriate, of course. We are mutually committed to cooperate through a framework agreement, and the Chair of the University Network for Cultural Routes is Professor Carla Martins, the president of the CGU. I hope we succeed to mobilise creativity and pragmatism to turn these commitments into visible cooperation with each university.

**WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU IDENTIFY TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EICR AND THE CGU IN THE FUTURE?**

I see many opportunities, especially in view “universalising” the spirit of the cultural routes by extending cooperation to countries and regions beyond Europe, where the CGU has



*Rui Gomes, Director of the  
European Institute of Cultural Routes*

a solid membership. Beyond this, I also look forward to learn from and extend the experience of inter-university cooperation of the CGU to our own network.

I believe it is in our hands to imagine and put into practice meaningful forms of cooperation if done together.

# Stella Programme

The Stella Programme is organised by the Compostela Group of Universities to foster and increase opportunities for mobility of our community.

It includes three key activities: The Stella for Staff, the Stella Junior and the Stella Chair, in addition to the recognition programme for partner universities.

## FOR PROFESSORS

### Stella Chair 2025

The 2025 edition of the Stella Chair, organised in collaboration with CETYS University, was declared void as no applications met the host's academic and research priorities in International Business, Business Administration, Social Entrepreneurship, and Business Strategy and Competitiveness.

The programme promotes international mobility for university teaching and research staff from CGU member institutions holding a stable contract.



### “Virtual Mobility” Programme, 2024-2025

Advancing international collaboration through teacher training, innovative practices, and expanded learning opportunities across CGU member universities.



The Compostela Group of Universities advanced academic collaboration through its Virtual Mobility Programme, offering a teacher training course that equipped staff with the tools to implement virtual mobility in their classrooms. The initiative strengthened international cooperation, enhanced student learning opportunities, and promoted innovative teaching practices across member universities. Work is currently underway on the next edition of the programme.

## FOR STAFF

### Stella for Staff

Professional mobility and international exchange for services staff across European and Latin American CGU member universities.

In the 2024–2025 edition of the Stella for Staff programme, a total of eleven universities from Europe and Latin America offered placements for services staff, promoting professional mobility and international exchange. These institutions include Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, University of Regensburg,



University of A Coruña, University of León, Technical University of Cartagena, as well as Latin American universities such as La Salle University, Autonomous University of Chihuahua, University of Monterrey, and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, among others.

From these offering universities, the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) selected eleven services staff members from institutions in Spain,

Mexico, Peru, and Poland to participate in the 2025 edition of the programme. Stella for Staff enables short training stays in departments of CGU member universities, providing participants with the opportunity to learn about different administrative practices, foster inter-university collaboration, and experience diverse institutional cultures. Additionally, two alternate candidates were designated, who may join the programme depending on availability.



compostela  
GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES



## Stella Junior

Promoting professional mobility, intercultural learning, and international experience for students across European and Latin American CGU member universities.

The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) has selected ten students for the 2025 edition of the Stella Junior programme, which promotes professional mobility and intercultural learning among students from member universities. Participants will carry out training

stays in departments across institutions in Europe and the Americas, gaining practical experience, improving their language skills, and strengthening their professional development in an international context.

For this edition, seven universities offered at least one placement, supporting the programme's international reach. These institutions include Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, University of A Coruña, Technical University of Cartagena, as well as Latin American universities such as CETYS University, Universidad La Salle Bajío, Autonomous University of Chihuahua, and the University of Guadalajara.

## ATENEO STELLA 2024-2025

Ateneo Stella has been created to acknowledge the contribution of the CGU member universities to the growth and success of the Stella programme.

The Ateneo Stella honors universities that excel in supporting student mobility within the Compostela Group of Universities. For 2024-2025, CETYS Universidad (Mexico) and Universidad La Salle Bajío (Mexico) received Premium recognition for accommodation, while Universidad de A Coruña (Spain) earned Gold recognition for economic support, and Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico) earned Gold recognition for economic support and subsistence.

## STELLA GOLD 2024-2025



University of Guadalajara  
(MEXICO)



UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA  
University of A Coruña  
(SPAIN)

## STELLA PREMIUM 2024-2025



CETYS University  
(MEXICO)



Universidad La Salle Bajío  
University La Salle Bajío  
(MEXICO)

## IX Research Pitches Contest of the Compostela Group of Universities – 2025

Recognizing outstanding research by students from the University of Monterrey and the University of the Basque Country in genetics, forced migration, and business innovation

The jury of the IX Research Pitches Contest of the Compostela Group of Universities has selected the winning pitches for 2025. First prize went to Aida Marcela Barrera Grunspan (University of Monterrey) for Precision Genetics for Proactive PCOS Care. Second and third prizes were awarded to Ivannia Villalobos Vindas and Miriam Parkhurst Casas (University of the Basque Country) for research on forced migration and the use of chess in business, respectively. The awards ceremony will be held on 15 September 2025 in Vila Real (Portugal), during the XXXI CGU General Assembly.



### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize

*Precision Genetics for Proactive PCOS Care.*

by **Aida Marcela Barrera Grunspan**  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTERREY, UDEM (MEXICO)

The jury recognized her clear and engaging presentation, accessible to a broad audience, as well as the innovative approach to early detection and personalized prevention of PCOS.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize

*Life Stories and Expectations of Forced Migrants Due to Armed Conflicts and Contemporary Authoritarianisms in Different Geographies.*

by **Ivannia Villalobos Vindas**  
UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (SPAIN)

She has developed a theoretical framework and tool to help decision-makers incorporate justice into risk management, considering not only social and spatial aspects but also ecological and temporal ones.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

*Chess as a Tool of Analogies and Decisional Model in Business Management and Internationalisation.*

by **Miriam Parkhurst Casas**  
UNIVERSITY OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (SPAIN)

The jury highlighted the clarity and interest of her presentation, which applies the logic of chess to business internationalisation as a strategic model for thoughtful decision-making in uncertain contexts.



Enhancing debating, public speaking, and intercultural skills for students from Peru, Spain, Mexico, the Czech Republic, and other CGU member universities.

The fourth online edition of the Compostela Debate Academy,

organised by the Compostela Group of Universities and the University of Pécs, took place from 4 to 8 November 2024. Students from various member universities participated, including some from Peru, Spain, Mexico and the Czech Republic, with academic backgrounds ranging from Law and International Relations to Engineering and Data Science.

## Compostela Debate Academy 2024

Participating in CGU initiatives also provides unique learning opportunities.



**Claudia Franco Nuñez**  
UNIVERSIDAD DE GUADALAJARA (MEXICO)

“Participating in the Online Compostela Debate Academy was a valuable experience that helped me improve my listening and public speaking skills, while practicing English. Debating with students from different cultures challenged me to step out of my comfort zone and broadened my academic and personal perspectives. Many thanks to my professors and classmates for this unique experience.”



*compostela*  
*academy*  
ON THE CAMINO

## Meetings on the Way with the University of Worcester

As part of his pilgrimage along the Camino Portugués, Professor David Green, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Worcester (UK), held a series of meetings with CGU representatives and member institutions between 23 and 29 May 2025, as part of the Meetings on the Way initiative.



As part of the Meetings on the Way initiative, University of Worcester Vice-Chancellor David Green undertook a pilgrimage along the Portuguese Way from 23 to 29 May 2025. During the journey, he held institutional meetings with the Vice-Rector of the University of

Vigo, the Rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Manuel Garabal, and the President of the Compostela Group of Universities. The campaign strengthened international academic cooperation and ties among CGU member universities.

Reflecting on his experience, Professor Green highlighted the unique perspective of the Camino: “The eye-opening thing about this walk has been that you get to see the countryside and the lives of the people in a truly different way... you notice a lot more.”

## 1st International Conference “Universities and Cultural Routes”

Exploring the role of universities in promoting and preserving cultural routes across Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Americas

On 13–14 November 2024, Santiago de Compostela hosted the first International Conference “Universities and Cultural Routes”, jointly organized by the Compostela

Group of Universities (CGU) and the European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR), with the collaboration of the Regional Government of Galicia.

The conference gathered representatives from universities, academic networks, and institutions involved in cultural routes, providing a platform to review past activities, set priorities for the 2024–2026 action plan, and reinforce universities as key partners in research, dissemination, and cultural cooperation.





CGU  
*volunteering*

## CGU Volunteering

Since 2019, the Compostela Group of Universities has run its own volunteer programme, registered under the Voluntary Action of the Regional Government of Galicia. Through this initiative, the Group promotes the participation of the university community in activities linked to the Camino de Santiago and to the European values of cooperation, integration, diversity, tolerance and unity. In addition, the CGU fosters collaboration with its member universities and partner organisations in the design and implementation of volunteer projects at regional, national and European levels.



## International Students Welcome Day, 2025

The Compostela Group of Universities participated in USC's 2024 International Students Welcome Day, presenting its initiatives and

engaging with around 400 international students from over 40 countries beginning their studies at USC.

## Volunteering with heritage in Bosques GAL

The Compostela Group of Universities launched the Volunteering with Heritage – Bosques GAL programme to promote Galicia's natural and cultural heritage through intergenerational eco-volunteering.

The project runs from 1 January to 31 October 2025 and invites young people and adults over 55 to participate in conservation, education, and cultural initiatives in rural areas. The programme received funding support under the Resolution of 10 April 2025.



## University Walking Community, 2025

Engaging young members of the CGU in volunteering, training, cultural visits, and walking stages along the Camino de Santiago, while promoting cooperation, solidarity, diversity, tolerance, and unity



The 2025 edition of the University Walking Community programme offered participants opportunities for volunteering, training, and cultural activities both along the Camino de Santiago and in public institutions.

Organized by the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) in collaboration with the Association of Municipalities of the Camino de Santiago (AMCS), the City Council of Jaca, the Government of Aragón, the University of Zaragoza, and the Spanish Federation of Associations of Friends of the Camino de Santiago, the programme brought together students from Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece, Morocco, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Mexico, reflecting the international diversity of the Compostela network.





*projects*  
AND COLLABORATIONS

## European Universities Alliances

**In thirty years of activity, the CGU has contributed to the development of more than a hundred of European Commission (EC) co-funded projects, both as a partner and as an associate, including the European University Alliances.**

Collaboration between universities benefits their students, staff and the society. This is why an increasing number of universities are partnering with projects to improve international competitiveness and promote their European values and identity, getting funds or recognition under the Erasmus+ programme.

Since the launch of the programme in 2019, a total of 30 CGU member institutions have joined one of the 65 EC co-funded University Alliances. In addition, two other Spanish



## Erasmus+

universities –the University of Lleida and the University of Vigo– are involved in projects that have been recognised with the Erasmus+ Programme Seal of Excellence, a quality label awarded by the EC to support proposals that did not receive funding through Erasmus+ due to budgetary constraints, but whose quality it wishes to highlight.

The CGU echoes their success while supporting those alliances in achieving their objectives.

## CGU at the First EUniWell Associated Institutions Meeting

**International gathering at USC to foster cooperation on wellbeing**

The Compostela Group of Universities took part on 6 May 2025 in the first EUniWell Associated

Institutions Meeting, held at USC with representatives from 16 international entities. Representing CGU, Professor Manuel Freire-Garabal attended the event, which aimed to strengthen cross-sector collaboration and open new avenues of cooperation on wellbeing.



## KA130 - Consortium for Mobility CGU EU-America

A CGU project recognised within the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union under the call KA130-HED – Erasmus Accreditation for Higher Education Mobility Consortia (2024-1-ES01-KA130-HED-000212899).

In 2025, the Compostela Group of Universities, together with the universities of A Coruña, León, Santiago de Compostela, and Oviedo, secured a new Erasmus+ grant. The project fosters student and doctoral mobility in priority fields such as security, international law, fundamental rights, welfare economics, biotechnologies, and the green and digital transition, with partners in the EU and Latin America.



**THE CONSORTIUM IS LED BY CGU AND COMPRISES THE SPANISH UNIVERSITIES OF A CORUÑA, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, LEÓN AND OVIEDO.**

The staff involved in the consortium will work together over the next four years to create new projects that contribute to the socio-economic growth of the Eurozone and the vulnerable area of the partner institutions, developing initiatives for

entrepreneurship, employability, innovation and digital transition. Also, the team intends to contribute to strengthening the international strategy and social responsibility of the partner institutions and the triangular dialogue and cooperation between Europe and America.



## PROJECT KA171 - Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral Student Mobility CGU EU-AMERICA 2024-2027

The first initiative of the Consortium for Mobility CGU EU-America is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union under the call KA171-HED Mobility of higher education students and staff supported by external policy funds (2024-1-ES01-KA171-HED-000239621).

The Erasmus+ Project 2024-1-ES01-KA171-HED-000239621, coordinated by the Compostela Group of Universities, promotes inclusive academic mobility between

Spain (Galicia, Asturias, Castilla y León) and Region 10 in the Americas (Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico). It supports student and staff exchanges in fields such as new technologies,

environment, social responsibility, and international politics. The project fosters cooperation, digital and green transitions, and strengthened ties between Europe and Latin America.



The Impulsa programme enhances further alliances between the network and the Galician University System, focusing on America and Europe.

## Tresemes Project

Connecting universities, businesses, and society to support students and graduates through mentoring, internships, and entrepreneurship

The Alumni-CGU Tresemes Project connects universities, businesses, and

society to support graduates and students through mentoring, internships, and entrepreneurship. It is part of the CGU 2024-27 Strategic Plan to boost collaboration and global impact. The initiative, led by Alumni USC and the CGU, has welcomed University of Minho, Universidad La Salle Bajío, and Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua to the pilot project. A dedicated project website has been developed to provide information, resources, and updates for all participants.



## Training courses



Course English as a Medium of Instruction



Online Course Graphic design and infographics



Online course Creating a professional website



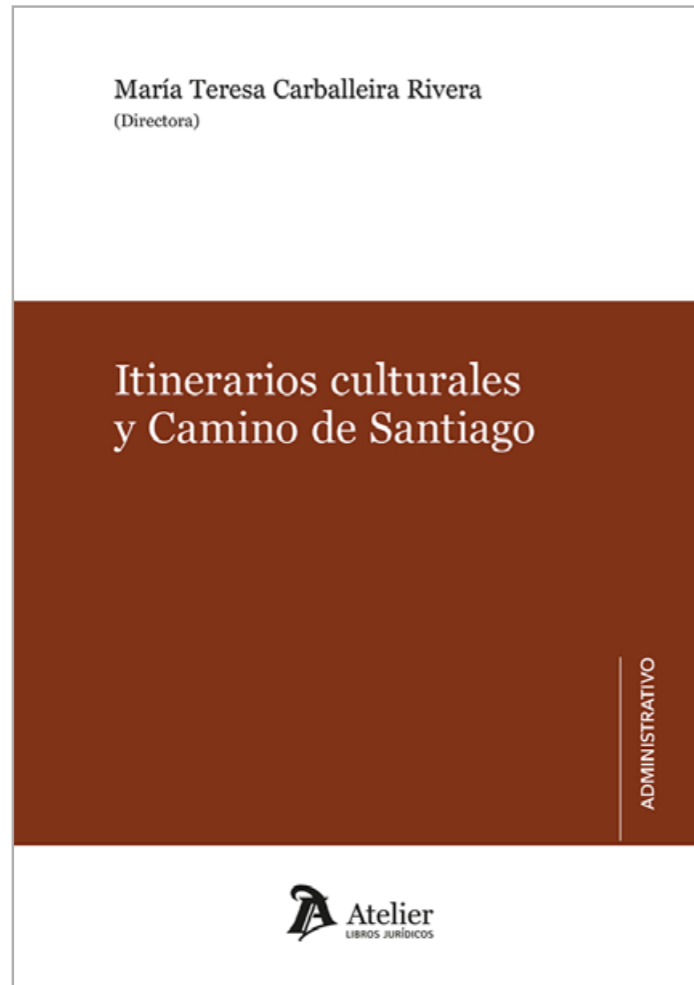
Online course Publish your book



Online course "Virtual Mobility" Programme 2023-2025

## Cultural Routes and Camino de Santiago (2025)

This book offers a multidisciplinary study of cultural itineraries, focusing on the Camino de Santiago. It examines their historical evolution, impact on society, heritage preservation, and local development. Highlighting the Camino as a meeting point of cultures and traditions, it emphasizes the importance of safeguarding this heritage for future generations.





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First, just decide which type of membership suits your organisation and complete the appropriate application form:

- Full membership form for higher education institutions.
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Next, send the following to [grupo.compostela@usc.es](mailto:grupo.compostela@usc.es):

- The application form, completed and e-signed by the rector or senior executive of your organisation.
- A letter addressed to the president of the CGU. • A presentation of your organisation.

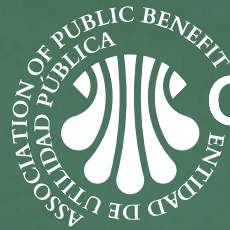
*For mutual collaborations or other proposals, please contact the executive secretariat at [grupo.compostela@usc.es](mailto:grupo.compostela@usc.es).*

## BENEFITS OF BEING A CGU'S PILGRIM

- Worldwide recognition and visibility through the CGU's communication 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 organisation of European Commission projects and CGU activities.

*Scan the QR code with your mobile phone or click on the image to visit our website, where you will find more information about how to become a member.*





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GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES  
GRUPO DE UNIVERSIDADES

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