

## **Mission Statement**

Founded in 1985 and formally constituted by Charter in 1987, the Coimbra Group is an association of long-established European comprehensive, multidisciplinary research universities of high international standard committed to creating special academic and cultural ties in order to promote, for the benefit of its members, internationalization, academic collaboration, excellence in learning and research, and service to society. It is also the purpose of the Coimbra Group to influence European education and research policy and to develop best practice through the mutual exchange of experience.

## **Aims**

In pursuit of its Mission, the Coimbra Group aims to:

1. Facilitate all forms of interchange, especially academic, cultural, social and sporting, and knowledge transfer among its member universities, their students and staff, with a view to ensuring full advantage is taken of the added value brought about by network cooperation.
2. Act as a driving force in the development of the European Higher Education and European Research Areas (EHEA and ERA) and promote the academic expertise of its members within this area.
3. Contribute to the debate on higher education in Europe and, where appropriate, influence European policy.
4. Promote the group worldwide as a reference of academic excellence in Europe, with a view to attracting students to the member universities and to encouraging academic cooperation and interchange between the members and institutions from around the world.
5. Act as an expert body, able to advise its members and other institutions (including the European Commission and its agencies) on matters relating to higher education.
6. Promote the role of comprehensive multidisciplinary research universities in today's changing global scene.
7. Promote academic and cultural heritage in higher education in the XXIst century.
8. Promote the role of universities in service to society at different levels, especially their impact on local, regional and global development.
9. Promote the importance of research integrity in scientific practice.
10. Ensure that adequate attention is paid to and full advantage taken of gender diversity and that equal opportunities exist.

## Supporting internal structures

1. The General Assembly, composed of the Rectors of all member universities or their delegates, is the highest decision-making body. It meets once a year and sets the overall priorities, policies, aims and objectives for the following year, including guidance for the work of such Task Forces and Committees as it deems necessary to ensure the fulfilment of the Group's Mission.
2. The General Assembly is chaired by the Honorary President, always the Rector of the university hosting the General Assembly.
3. The Executive Board is responsible for ensuring the implementation of General Assembly decisions and progress in achieving the aims and objectives of the Group between General Assemblies. It normally has 8 members, with a statutory maximum of 10, elected in and by the General Assembly. It meets once a month.
4. The Executive Board is responsible for devising and ensuring an administrative structure that is able to carry out the Mission and Aims of the Group; for devising effective ways of involving member institutions, their Rectors, and academic and administrative staff in the work of the Group; for establishing links with other institutions and networks; for monitoring progress and coordinating the activities of existing Task Forces and Committees; for proposing the setting up, reformation or discontinuing of Task Forces and Committees; and for reporting to the General Assembly each year on whether aims and objectives have been met.
5. The Executive Board elects a Chair from amongst its members. The Chair acts as spokesperson for the Group.
6. The Rectors' Advisory Group advises the Executive Board on policies, priorities and action paths. It is composed of 7 Rectors, 3 ex officio (the immediate past, present and future Honorary Presidents) and 4 elected by the General Assembly.
7. The General Assembly decides on the setting up of Committees and Task Forces for the carrying out of specific tasks, in accordance with the Statutes or at the proposal of the Executive Board. The former will normally be permanent, due to the nature of their remit (e.g. the Accounts and Finance Committee), whilst the latter will normally be temporary, in view of the Group's need to address particular issues at particular junctures.
8. Each member university may send representatives to each of the Task Forces. Each Task Force will elect a Chair, who is responsible for ensuring that the business of meetings and actions taken are focused and fulfil tasks and priorities set for them by the General Assembly and Executive Board.
9. The Coimbra Group Office (CG Office) is responsible for ensuring that decisions taken are followed through and that discussions and decisions are disseminated to all member institutions. It offers support to the Executive Board, Committees and Task Forces in their work, and participates as

coordinator, full or associate partner in such projects as the General Assembly and Executive Board see fit for the furthering of the Coimbra Group's objectives. The General Assembly and member universities guarantee, mainly through their annual membership fee, that the CG Office has sufficient resources to carry out its remit.

10. Member universities ensure, through the appointed contact person, communication with the CG Office and dissemination of Coimbra Group activities within their institutions. Similarly, they ensure sufficient funding and facilities for their various representatives to take part in or host those Coimbra Group decision-making bodies, meetings and activities which they deem to be of their interest.

For further detail, see text of Statutes and internal regulations as indicated.

Statutes (in French): <http://coimbra-group.eu/uploads/2013/StatutesFR2013.pdf>

The Internal Regulations are found on the Intranet pages of the Coimbra Group web site:

- Internal Regulations for Coimbra Group Membership Applications (3 April 2006)
- Internal Regulations for the Rectors' Advisory Group (19 May 2006)
- Internal Regulations for the Closed Rectors' Meeting (19 May 2006)
- Internal Regulations for Project Applications (20 November 2006)
- Internal Regulations for the Election of Executive Board members (26 February 2007)
- Internal Regulations for the Administrative and Financial Committee (26 February 2007)
- Internal Regulations for Workshops and Conferences (16 March 2007)
- Internal Regulations for Coimbra Group Task Forces (23 April 2007)
- Internal Regulations for the Organisation of Coimbra Group Annual Conferences (20 March 2009)