



How can a university network  
like the Coimbra Group  
contribute to mobility ?

G. Langouche

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# Observation

The 38 Coimbra Group Universities constitute  
less than 1 % of all European Higher Education Institutions

yet

20 % of all Erasmus students "see" every year  
a Coimbra Group University

and

Coimbra Group Universities participate in  
almost half of all Erasmus Mundus programmes

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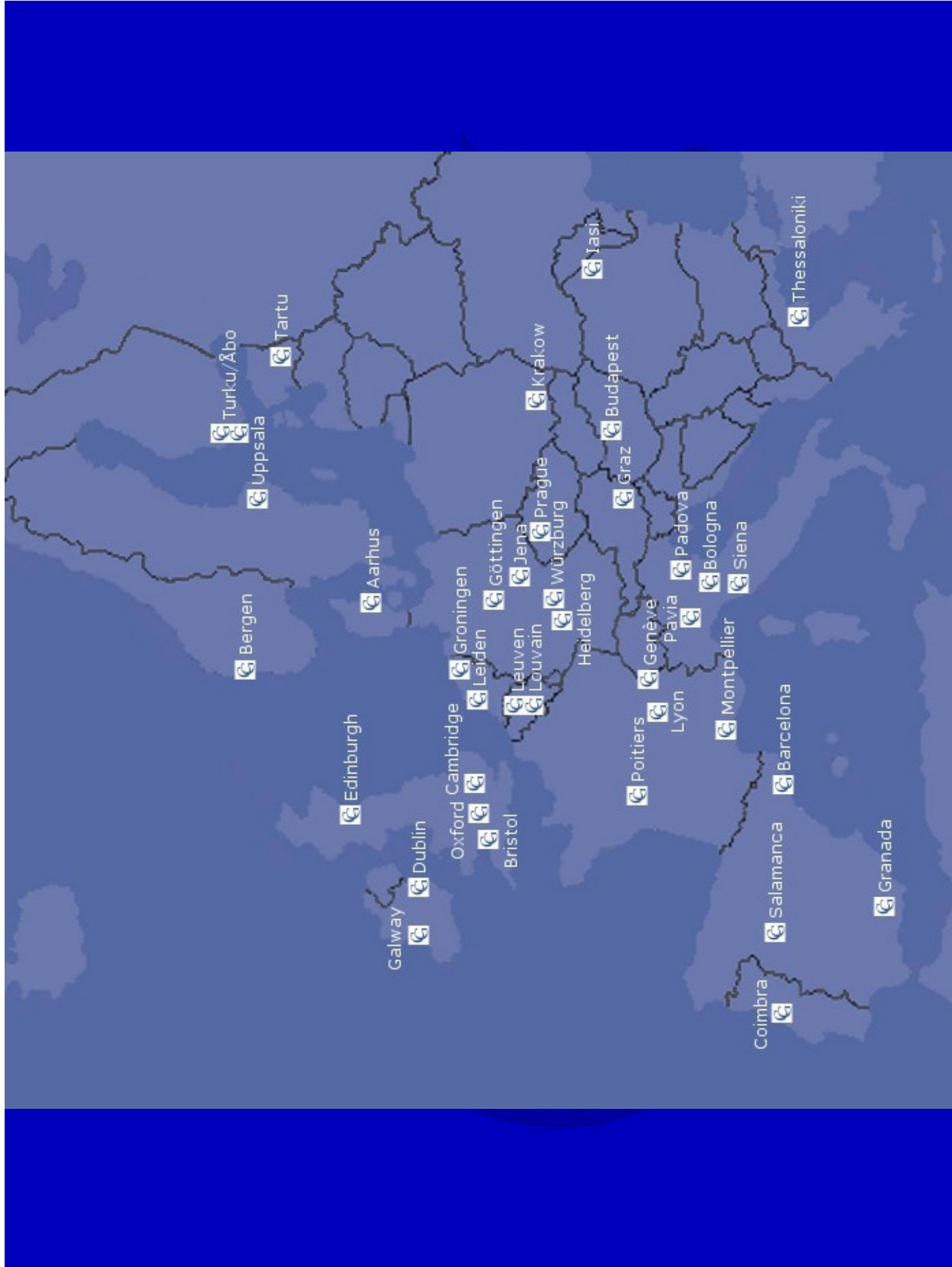
# Who are we ?

a network of 38 European universities  
with typical profile

4 characteristics:

- high quality research universities
- long - established
- in university-dominated cities outside capital
- comprehensive

(membership by invitation only)



Galway

Dublin

Edinburgh

Oxford

Cambridge

Bristol

Leuven

Louvain

Leiden

Groningen

Aarhus

Bergen

Uppsala

Turku/Åbo

Tartu

Göttingen

Jena

Prague

Würzburg

Heidelberg

Krakow

Graz

Budapest

Iasi

Thessaloniki

Poitiers

Genève

Pavia

Lyon

Montpellier

Padova

Bologna

Siena

Coimbra

Salamanca

Barcelona

Granada

# Coimbra Group Origin

Coimbra Group was created as network of universities with similar profile and similar challenges (strong impact on region, historical buildings...)

- 1985 Louvain-la-Neuve & Leuven invite potential network members
- 1986 first General Assembly in Coimbra



# What do we want ?

"The Coimbra Group is committed to the promotion of academic collaboration between its members"

## 3 levels:

- mutual exchange of experience
- development of best practice
- influencing European policy

# Coimbra Group 8 Task Forces

- Education, Training and Mobility
- Employment and Career Guidance
- Doctoral Studies and Research
- Culture, Arts and Humanities
- e-Learning
  
- Eastern Neighbouring Countries
- Latin American Countries
- ACP countries

# Mobility at focus of attention

All Task Forces promote mobility either directly or indirectly:

e.g. Education, Training and Mobility Task Force

- Develops best practice on internationalization of curricula and degrees
- Acquires early information about new European educational initiatives and jointly submits educational projects to EU
- Facilitates the development of joint programmes
- Supports a Student Exchange Network with members that do not participate in the Erasmus programme

# Mobility at focus of attention

e.g. Doctoral Studies and Research Task Force

- Facilitates the mobility of doctoral students by disseminating information among Coimbra Group universities concerning doctoral study programmes and topics for PhD theses in the individual member universities (web portal).
- Promotes the mutual academic recognition of programme units followed at partner universities or organized jointly.
- Facilitates joint supervision of doctoral students between two Coimbra Group partner institutions.

# Mobility at focus of attention

## 3 regional Task Forces:

LA Latin American Countries

ENC Eastern Neighbouring Countries

ACP Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries

## All 3 Task Forces

- organise seminars together with universities in those regions
- support student/staff annual scholarship programme (from own means)
- submit projects jointly (e.g. Erasmus Mundus regional windows)
- negotiate exchange agreements with other networks (Montevideo, Coimbrasil, BecasChile)

# Why CG focus on mobility ?

- Historical coincidence

The creation of the CG coincides with start of Erasmus Programme

Strong commitment of CG rectors to internationalization

Several Erasmus networks set up within CG at study field level

International Offices created inside CG universities

- From top-down to bottom-up

International Officers of the CG meet regularly

Unintentional choice for CG partner upon new mobility initiatives

# Future outlook

- **Quality mobility**  
valuable learning outcomes rather than academic tourism  
mobility has to lead to better quality educational programmes and the clear development of international and intercultural competences
- **CG supports 20 % mobility goal of Leuven/LLNeuve declaration**  
study programmes have to provide for mobility window  
mobility has to be rewarded rather than punished  
joint programmes/degrees offer excellent mobility framework
- **More attention for doctoral and postdoctoral mobility**  
more transparency needed in student/employee status and rights  
mobility across sectors (e.g. with public institutions, organizations, ...)  
role for Career Services at universities (internships, work placements...)

# Conclusions

University networks can help individual universities

- as vehicles for internationalisation
- to shift from academic tourism to quality mobility
- by offering an excellent framework for setting up joint programmes
- by offering mobility windows to the rest of the world

for more information:

[www.coimbra-group.eu](http://www.coimbra-group.eu)