



Poitiers declaration  
on the collaboration between  
Coimbra Group Universities and the Municipalities  
June 9th, 2016

The Coimbra Group Universities and the Municipalities gathered at the conference “The University and the City” in Poitiers on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016,

inspired by the “Pavia protocol” signed between the National Association of Italian Municipalities and the Conference of Italian University Rectors in Pavia in September 2015,

signed the present Declaration.

The signatories

1. Reaffirm their centuries-long view that Universities have a central role in the development of Cities and that Cities represent a fundamental framework and catalyst for the development of Universities;
2. Declare that both Cities and Universities have a vital interest in the growth of knowledge and in education;
3. Appreciate that the cooperation between Universities and Cities yields benefits ranging from the generation of greater wealth to the beneficial dynamics of life style, from the realization of wider social cohesion to the diffusion of human-friendly technologies;
4. Acknowledge that this collaboration has already created important and positive outcomes, but so much more can be done to foster dialogue and synergy between governments of the Cities and governments of the Universities.

The Coimbra Group Universities and the Municipalities agree to define a set of objectives and accompanying initiatives to be pursued in the coming years, in order to make a concrete and visible contribution to the development of their local and regional communities. These include:

- I. Joint initiatives of local governance with other institutional and social actors of Cities and Universities.*
- II. Sharing the benefits and impact of Research and Education with the broader regional, national and European stakeholders.*
- III. Incentives to Knowledge and Culture-based entertainment events, as a positive element of University and City life and engagement with the broader public.*
- IV. Internationalization of the activities of Universities and Cities.*
- V. Support for the expansion of youth entrepreneurship directly linked to Research.*
- VI. Development of policies to attract companies as well as medical, social and cultural services and activities.*
- VII. Development of a joint University-City policy on protection, enhancement and guarantee of sustainability of University buildings.*
- VIII. Development of welcoming and affordable residential policies.*
- IX. Rethinking of public transport and urban mobility, with attention to the needs of the student population.*
- X. Promotion of sport among students and all citizens, both as an amateur and professional activity, as well as a way to overcome disabilities.*

Based on the agreement of the above Declaration, the Coimbra Group encourages each Member University to enhance and strengthen the dialogue and partnership with its Municipality.

The Coimbra Group expresses its intention to establish a group of experts with a mandate to examine in depth and in a structured manner the above-mentioned issues and initiatives developed by Member Universities, in order to serve as a common platform for sharing good practices in the field of University-City partnership.

Poitiers, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**For the Coimbra Group,**

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