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# ZYCIE

## UNIWERSYTECKIE

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*Special edition*

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*20th Anniversary of the Compostela Group of Universities*

# Welcome to Poznań



Ministry of Science  
and Higher Education

Republic of Poland

## Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests!

It is my great pleasure to welcome the members of the annual meeting of the Compostela Group here in Poznan, at the Adam Mickiewicz University. We are happy to open to you our university, our buildings and our minds. It is a great blessing to be able to benefit from the diversity and cooperation between our institutions. Together, we want to create the European academic area, face the challenges, search for routes to the truth.

Following in the footsteps of the pilgrim scientists and the ideas they have disseminated in Europe for centuries, we still want to share our knowledge with others. Since knowledge is a unique kind of asset that grows bigger by being shared.

It is not the first time that you, as an institution, visit our city. Poznan is a region well known for its frugality, hard work and innovation. I hope this time again you will find here inspiration for further fruitful activity, but also and above all, friendship and kind hearts.

Welcome, pilgrims of the World!



PHOTO MACIEJ MECZYNSKI

Prof. Dr Bronislaw Marciniak,  
Rector Magnificus of the Adam  
Mickiewicz in Poznan

# Meetings broaden your mind

Jolanta Lenartowicz speaking  
with Prof. Marek Kręglewski, AMU Faculty of Chemistry,  
treasurer of the Compostela Group

**You have been involved in the Compostela Group and its important matters for 18 years now. This year, you are hosting a traditional annual meeting of delegates from across the world. How did it all start?**

I joined the project when the Group was three years old. My first encounter was in London in 1997 when the Compostela Group Award, the Golden Shell, was first granted. It was then that I saw how important it is to meet, not just with people, but also to build mutual ties between institutions, such as universities.

**And now, with Europe's going international and the world changing rapidly, how do you see the role of the Group?**

It continues to be a meeting place, not just for scientific contacts under specific programmes nor particular scientists or scholars, what it also offers is a platform to establish partnerships which we believe to be a future driving force. Links and contacts make a sustained community. We stay together all the time, we walk side by side.

**This is beautifully emphasised by the symbols used by the Group: pilgrimage, meeting on the way, hiking the difficult trails together ... it does appeal to imagination.**

With peregrinations to Compostela becoming popular, some universities were founded along the four routes of pilgrimage. Those trails became the main roads linking schools, people, explorers. Knowledge of that time was transferred by the pilgrims and further extended at stops and meetings on the way. This is how the real European thinking was being shaped.

**And this tradition has been held up to date.**

Indeed, the modern Europe wants to go back to the roots of the European culture, where meeting was something natural, expected and mutually enriching.

**Today, actions in the spirit of Compostela require some money, too. Where do you take it from? I'm asking you as a treasurer.**



PHOTO MACIEJ MECZYNSKI

To cut a long story short, every participating university pays its fees. We pay for our activities using our own resources and receive some funds from the EU budget for particular common programmes.

**The Compostela Group awards a prestigious annual Golden Shell. Who is it given to: scientists, organisers, inventors?**

The point is to enhance the European dimension of our activities. Candidates include individuals, institutions and programmes that contribute to the European integration, such as artists, politicians, scientists, scholars, social activists and non-governmental organisations. This year's winner was Lennart Levi, a Swedish physician and his concept of social health care.

**Poland has been distinguished, too, hasn't it?**

True. Golden Shells have been granted to Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, and the College of Europe, with a branch in Natolin, attended mostly by students from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

**As a meeting organiser, what impressions would you like our guests to take home?**

I would like them to remember us as a good ordered university, as a well managed and well organised city, as friendly people who are nice to meet.

# Pilgrimage to Europe



PHOTO MACIEJ MECZYŃSKI

## Prof. Stefan Jurga, AMU

AMU's joining the Compostela Group of Universities in 1994 was an important step in the University's internationalisation process, after Poland regained full sovereignty in 1989. Alongside other important parts of the process, such as the formation of Collegium Polonicum in Slubice in cooperation with the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, where main emphasis is placed on the development of scientific and teaching cooperation between borderland Polish and German universities, the Compostela Group of Universities focuses on cooperation with many universities across Europe. The project also aims to preserve the cultural and historic legacy created by pilgrims who walked to the St. James' tomb in Santiago de Compostella. The pilgrimages were events of not only religious but also social and political importance as they enhanced the emerging European community. In that regard, the European College we founded in Gniezno on the 1000th anniversary of the Congress of Gniezno is a natural consequence of that way of thinking.

It needs to be stressed that the Compostela Group's important objective was to promote the mobility of students and academic staff through internships, workshops and conferences, as well as direct scientific cooperation under the then emerging EU framework programmes. It was an essential experience for the University in its policy of acquiring EU funds for scientific research. While in 1994 we were not yet covered by financial aid under the Third Framework Programme, beginning with the Fifth Framework Programme of 1999, we have been consistently involved in the successive EU framework programmes without forgetting, however, that our internationalisation process under the new European governance was initiated by our joining the Compostela Group.

## What shall we discuss in Poznań

Each year, the Compostela Executive Committee must report on previous year's activities, on what has been a particular focus of our organisation, on our finance and plans for the year to come. These are the fixed elements. Apart from that formal part which arises from the Group's statute, we always try to use the occasion to hold a conference related to a specific subject matter. Two issues will be discussed this time. First is the presentation of the results of a multi-annual research project (led by Prof. Marek Kwiek, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan) on conditions to be met to achieve worldwide success in science. The other issue is the Poznan Declaration developed on the European level. The discussion is aimed to determine what and on what level should be taught to make science interact with politics, to make it based not only on economic considerations, but also on values which are significant regardless of the region. This may help deliver better results of effective cooperation.

## Honour Committee

Prof. Dr Maurits van Rooijen, President of the Compostela of Universities

Prof. Dr Bronislaw Marciniak, Rector Magnificus of the Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan

Prof. Dr Juan Viaño, Reitor Magnífico da Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

H.E. Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Minister of Education in Poland

H.E. Alberto Núñez Feijóo, President of the Xunta de Galicia (Galicia, Spain)

H.E. Jesús Vázquez Abad, Regional Minister of the Xunta de Galicia for Culture, Education and University Development (Galicia, Spain)

Prof. Michael Cooper, former President of the Compostela Group of Universities (1999-2007)

Prof. Dr Marc Richelle, first President of the Compostela Group of Universities (1995-1999)

Prof. Dr Antonio Dieck Assad, Rector Magnificus da Universidad de Monterrey (Mexico)



PHOTO MACIEJ MECZYŃSKI

# Compostela Group of Universities – 20 years young

Maurits van Rooijen

It is a massive cliché but.... I cannot believe that twenty years have passed since that very first General Assembly in sunny Santiago de Compostela! Yes, it WAS sunny that day as I recall sitting on a pavement cafe with Michael Cooper for a 'solo', marking the start of lifelong friendship.

Building one of the largest university networks in Europe has not happened overnight but it has made for a fascinating journey. It has required hard, intense, passionate work, where the baton changed hands from Manuel Freire-Garabal to Marc Richelle to Michael Cooper and eventually to me.

The idea for the Compostela Group was, like every genial idea, remarkably simple. When Manuel Freire-Garabal introduced it (to universities along the way to Santiago de Compostela), it was compelling in being both unconventional

and almost self-evident. The first stage of establishing the network, following a letter written by Manuel Freire-Garabal which generated great enthusiasm, consisted of long, detailed discussions about by-laws. This was followed by the first session of the new executive. As the first president, Marc Richelle brought us all together in his unique, charming way, bridging potentially large cultural and linguistic barriers.

At the start of the first meeting, Marc Richelle concluded that there was no common language shared amongst us and that we should all speak the language that came to us most easily. This strategy worked well and resulted in a wonderful balance between the typically-northern obsession with planning and punctuality and the more southern belief that life is too short and beautiful to get stressed about minor issues such as timekeeping! Marc Ri-

chelle even managed to establish a reasonable compromise on what would be a fair time to have dinner in the evening. In his four-year tenure as president he brought the Group together and formed a Compostela 'feeling' that remains with us to the present day.

When Michael Cooper took over from Marc Richelle he had the task of giving the Group structure and purpose with the goal of ensuring that it functioned in a sustainable way. It was from this development that my own role as vice-president emerged, allowing me to work closely with Michael Cooper during his eight-year tenure to give cohesion to the network and to find the network's USPs, as they say in the corporate world.

When I was elected as Michael Cooper's successor seven years ago, I inherited an already well-established Group with a distinct reputation,

## CGU 20TH YEARS – POZNAN 25-27 SEPT 2014 SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

Marc Richelle

My involvement in CGU was the product of chance. Late in my career, having the opportunity to take a sabbatical leave, we elected Spain to spend the academic year 1990-91. I was curious to observe the fast development of my field, Psychology, after the period of stagnation under Franco regime. I visited a number of departments. Usually my visit consisted in getting informed about research and teaching activities and in delivering a lecture. In May 1991, we drove to Santiago, where I was the guest of the Psychology Department. However, instead of delivering a lecture to psychology students, I was unexpectedly invited to speak to a general audience. There I met colleagues from other Faculties, especially from the Medical School. Among them, there was a young pharmacologist, Manuel Freire-Garabal, an enthusiastic researcher with great ideas and projects beyond his laboratory. One of his projects, which he had already discussed with the Rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela in that moment, Ramón Villares, was to build a network of universities located on any of the many pilgrimage ways, referring to their emblematic symbolic value not as religious tradition, but as channel of cultural exchanges. I felt it was interesting and I encouraged him to go ahead. Two years later, I was asked to sit in a steering committee that would explore the feasibility of what might have been looked at as utopia.



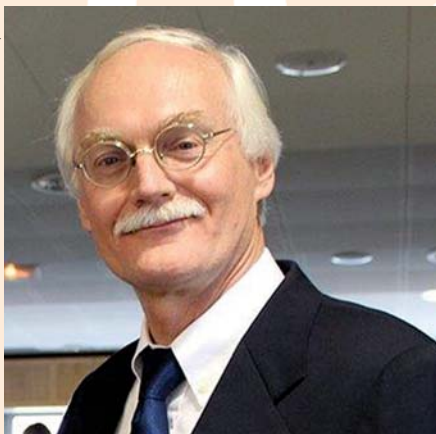
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About 100 universities responded to the invitation to a preliminary meeting in September 1993. About half of them did confirm their interest and in September 1994, the official act of foundation of CGU was celebrated in Santiago. The session was chaired by the newly elected Rector, Darío Villanueva. To my surprise, I was approached to take the office of President. I did accept, perhaps because the whole story had been so unexpected.

Although I had been in Santiago de Compostela several times, I had not yet learned all the subtleties of the local social relations. The academic foundation act being finished, I thought it was all over until lunch time. I stayed a while chatting with people around. Suddenly, someone ran to me urging me to go to the cathedral, where they were waiting for me to start another part of the celebration. Asking what I was expected to do there, I was told that I was to sit next to the Rector and to pronounce a few words

evoking whatever I would feel appropriate in relation with the event of the day. Among other pieces of art and curiosities, the cathedral has an enormous thurible – *el botafumeiro* – fixed close to the vault of the transept; on special occasions, it is moved down and made to oscillate by men pulling strong ropes. We were sitting just under that impressive objet. However, I was not so much anxious about the risk that it might fall on my head as I was at improvising the few words I had to pronounce. God being by necessity polyglot, I was free to use the language I wanted. French was most convenient for me, if not for the audience. Anyhow I had to be cautious about respecting both the secularity of public universities and the religious character of the situation. This unusual experience taught me one important point in Santiago social code: public institutions, and non catholic people on one hand, and religious authorities and adherents to the church on the other, had managed to live in reciprocal tolerance and even to work in fair cooperation

It would be presumptuous to describe what has been done in CGU during the first four years. Whatever has been achieved was the result of the interest and efforts of member universities and of individuals who dedicated their time and energy in working to the development of the group, and of the commitment and support of the Xunta of Galicia.



a long wish list for future activities and... no money. The Compostela feeling was still very much alive, but the network itself required considerable basic organisational work to rectify the situation. The first priority was to sort out the finances, at a time when higher education and charitable budgets were shrinking rapidly. Marek Kreglewski accepted the role of Treasurer with impressive enthusiasm, whilst Lucia Castro demonstrated admirable control of the purse strings.

During this crucial period we finally began to make real progress in terms of communications. A network of this size often struggles to

get its messages and news across, but in Noelia Martinez-Cagiao we found someone capable of tackling a task of great magnitude in an impressively innovative way.

We started to reach out more and more effectively to the constituent groups within CGU. The Video Contest for students was a perfect example of this, allowing us to really get our students engaged and involved. And of course STELLA Mobility Programme grew from strength to strength, going transnational as a result of our affiliation with CONAHEC.

Two important developments in the last seven years have been particularly effective in laying the foundations for further expansion of the Group. The first development was the creation of opportunities for associate members (like-minded organisations that are not higher education institutions in their own right) and for affiliated networks that have a similar mission as CGU. The second development allowed us to start looking more and more beyond Europe, though for obvious reasons we already

had excellent historical links in Latin America and North Africa.

So now, to mark our twentieth anniversary, we return to Poznan. It's great to be back! I still vividly remember our previous arrival at our hotel and the early breakfast before the General Assembly. There we were greeted with hugs and kisses from both familiar faces and the new additions to the Compostela family.

Welcoming all whilst standing next to the breakfast buffet with my still empty plate, a new young lady turned to me, looking familiar yet I couldn't immediately recall her university. After exchanging friendly kisses of greeting, she smiled at me and asked for my room number. Needless to say, I was somewhat taken aback. Seeing my reaction she pointed towards a small desk at the entrance of the restaurant and said: 'you were so busy greeting your friends that I wasn't able to register your room number when you entered'.

The lady was correct: I regard you all as my friends and look forward to many more Compostela breakfasts together!

**Maurits van Rooijen**

## Compostela – Learning as you Walk

Michael Cooper

General Assemblies, executive committee meetings, symposia were all memorable events. By personal inclination, I have a preference for small size scientific meetings. The first event of that kind was an intensive course in Santiago, in fall 1995, on "European identity in historical perspective". A picture from my archives shows the opening session. This first scientific activity has to me a strong symbolic connotation. CGU was, originally, a European scheme. It has since then widened to other continents. As a European project, it has fulfilled its ambition of contributing to strengthen the relations and collaborations between universities, hopefully helping to better understanding between people. Such ambition is, sadly enough, never definitively achieved. Conflicts took place in Europe in the last 20 years and still occur today, more alarming than ever. European citizens should be reminded of the circumstances that led to the quest for European Union, that was essentially a quest for peace. The question of European identity in historical perspective ought to be raised again and again. My hope is that CGU will keep that as one of its major goals.

**Marc Richelle**

Professor emeritus  
University of Liège  
Member & Honorary President  
Royal Academy of Belgium

For me, the value and beauty of the Compostela Group has always lain in its concept of recreating and developing the major contribution of the medieval period to culture and learning. This age, like today, was a period of contradictions. On the one hand, rulers were continually fighting to increase their territory and wealth, as they still are, although generally with less brutal means, whilst on the other scholars were travelling between centres of learning, exchanging ideas and knowledge. Pilgrim routes, not least those to Santiago, enabled intercultural meetings on a wider scale.

It is not insignificant that the Group saw the light of day in Spain since it was the Iberian peninsula that witnessed the first great flowering of learning in Medieval Europe and it was a 13<sup>th</sup> century Castilian king, Alfonso el Sabio, who realised the value of making available to the rest of Europe through translation into Latin the great Arabic works of science and learning, which also included ancient Greek texts preserved by Islamic scholars. These efforts were thus vital in laying the foundations for the Renaissance and, by extension, the modern world.

The Group thus has a long heritage which it can apply to addressing issues facing the modern world, which in many ways are not so different to those faced by people in the past. It has made some significant contributions during the course of its first two decades, not least in



seminars, workshops and projects, which in some cases have led to interesting publications. Collaboration with the Xunta de Galicia has enabled the Group to recognise noteworthy individuals and entities in the European context through the award of the Compostela Prize. Learning processes through mobility and other activities for university staff and students are other key factors.

Although initially European, the Group has become attractive to institutions in other continents, which will provide a platform for a more extensive range of activities in its major fields of interest and hopefully stimulate others to move in a similar direction. What is absolutely clear at the present time when the fear of the other, the unknown, is being systematically reinforced by populist nationalist parties in many European countries is that the work of groups like Compostela is crucial.



PHOTO MACIEJ MIECZYŃSKI

# From Palatium to buses

When visiting Poland, it's a good idea to start from Poznań, the capital city of the Wielkopolska region, since it is here that the foundations of the Polish state were laid in the 10th century. It is here that the tombs of the first Polish rulers can be found, and the remnants of a baptismal font in the underground of the cathedral on Ostrów Tumski – Poland's statehood being established with the adoption of Christianity. It is here as well – although only 15 years ago – that Prof. Hanna Kočka-Krenz from Poznań's University discovered the walls of the Palatium of Mieszko I, the first king of Poland.

The wealth and resilience of the city are well evidenced by the Renaissance town hall standing at the Old Market Square designed by Giovanni Battista di Quadro and recognised to be one of the most beautiful of its kind in Europe. Each year an award named after him is accorded to Poznań's best works of architecture, with University buildings having been awarded twice so far. Every day, two goats, symbols of the city, butt heads at noon on the town hall tower.

The following centuries saw the building of a marvellous Baroque parish church (known as Fara Church) near the town hall; the Raczyński Library, which was erected in the 19th

century and came to be known as a little Louvre; then the opera, Imperial Castle, Royal Academy and administration buildings – all built in the early 20th century after the demolition of the walls surrounding the city spurred it to develop – which now form the city centre, "the most Prussian architectural corner of Europe" as Norman Davies put it during his stay in Poznań. Indeed, these were the times of partitions, when Poland disappeared from maps divided between Russia, Austria and Prussia. Wielkopolska was under the rule of Prussia. Paradoxically, it was a very fruitful period for people of Wielkopolska who, in the face of threatening Germanization, established many social organisations, competed economically with the Germans, pursued their education and fostered their patriotism.

Posnanians are famous in Poland for their rationalism and practicality. It is those qualities that stood behind the only successful and best organised uprising in the history of Poland, which took place in 1918 winning independence to Wielkopolska.

Poznań thrived in the interwar period, as proved, for instance, by the modern exhibition centre built in a very short time in the city centre and continuing to be operational up to date. It was also at that time when a modest pa-

vilion was converted into one of Europe's best palm houses. The war of 1939-1945 brought terror, destruction, shooting executions and displacements of the members of the intelligentsia and business people.

Today, the city is nice and colourful again. Poznań is the basis for a Volkswagen factory with environmental-friendly solutions more advanced than those of the home facility in Wolfsburg, or Solaris that manufactures buses running in many cities of Europe and beyond. The city also features Stary Browar recognised to be the world's most beautiful shopping centre of its class, successfully combining shopping and art.

## Intricate history of the University

The city is unique and so is its university. Since 1519, Poznań had excellent high schools distinguished with their innovative teaching methods, which were not allowed, however, to acquire the university status due to the objection from the Krakow academic authorities. In the partitions period, several hundred petitions were filed by the Poznań community to the Prussian parliament to open a Polish university – but to no effect. Therefore, the Society of Friends of Learning was established in Poznań, an organisation funded by sponsors to collect books and scientific equipment, con-

# Poznan (AMU)

AMU is one of the largest academic centres in Poland having, in addition to its facilities in Poznan, campuses in Gniezno, Kalisz, Pila and Slubice. The University gathers around 3,000 lecturers, nearly 1,800 members of supporting staff and 49,000 students.

Its fifteen faculties organized into institutes and departments offer instruction in over 100 disciplines and specialisations, as well as several degree programmes. International student education at AMU consists of:

- AMU PreMed Medical Study Course
- School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreign Students
- Summer School of Polish Language and Culture
- English intensive preparatory courses for further study
- BA, MA and PhD Degree Programs
- AMU-PIE: A YEAR AT AMU that co-ordinates nearly 300 regular courses on a variety of subjects taught in English, and some in French and Spanish (among others).

In this regard, AMU has well-developed international relations and co-operates with about 350 universities across the world under bilateral agreements. AMU is a member of: EUA – European

University Association, EUCEN – European University Continuing Education Network, The CGU -Compostela Group of Universities, The Santander Group – European University Network, European Chemistry Thematic Network and other European Research Networks.

Some of the general highlights of the institution are:

- Central location: halfway between Berlin and Warsaw.
- Student-friendly and multicultural city: 1 in 5 citizens is a student.
- Vibrant business centre offering career opportunities: unemployment rate is 2,5%.
- Broad academic offer: ranked among Top-3 Universities in Poland for the last 5 years!
- Advanced research opportunities.
- Handicap-friendly program.
- Easy access to culture: the city's Philharmonic Orchestra plays in the AMU Main Auditorium. Poznań Opera House and National Museum are very close.
- Exciting sports program to follow in 30 disciplines.



PHOTO X41 MACIEJ MECZYŃSKI



duct studies and give open lectures. By doing so, it laid the groundwork for the Poznań University which started its first academic year in May 1919, just a few months after Poland regained its independence. It was as modern at that time as the two previous schools. With young academic staff, courses in economics and sociology, or English used to a larger extent than in other universities, it rapidly grew to win a high reputation. The first rector was Heliodor Święcicki, a colourful character, outstanding physician and social activist. The apparatus for anaesthesia in obstetrics of his invention was used all across Europe.

The period of Nazi occupation in 1939-1945 witnessed a world's unprecedented secret acti-

vity of the University when all schools and universities were officially closed. Two thousand students graduated then with professors giving classes at private homes under threat of death.

After the war, the University faculties developed into new academic institutions: The University of Life Sciences, University of Economics and University of Medical Sciences. Since 1955, the University has been named after the greatest poet of the Polish Romanticism, Adam Mickiewicz; hence the abbreviation AMU. Today, the University has 49,000 students at 15 faculties. It is the third largest university in Poland with buildings located both in the city centre and the modern newly built Morasko campus.

There are several routes near Poznan leading to Santiago de Compostela, including the Polish Route (Camina Polaca). Notably, after the visit of Pope John Paul II to Santiago de Compostela in 1982, the Council of Europe declared the Way of St. James to be part of the European cultural heritage in the spirit of Goethe's words: "Europe was created on the Way of St James".

# Compostela Prize 2014



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**Prof. Lennart Levi**

**The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) jointly with the Galician Government awarded the XVIII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia to the Swedish scientist Lennart Levi, as an acknowledgement for his promotion of the European Values through a career committed and oriented to the improvement of physical, mental and social wellbeing of entire populations. His interdisciplinary and intersectoral perspectives (integrating approaches from Medicine, Economy, Psychology, Sociology, Education and other scientific and political fields), his outstanding social concern and his focus on bridging the science-policy gap were decisive elements making the decision. Prof. Lennart Levi initiated the discussion on value-based education, including academic education, which will result in adoption of the Poznań Declaration at the Compostela Group meeting in Poznań.**

## Władysław Bartoszewski's

biography is so eventful that it could be shared by several individuals: *życie trudne, lecz nie nudne* (life difficult but not boring) as he jokingly said. The unusual developments of his life are bewildering even for himself. *If anyone told me 60 years ago, while I was standing huddled on the parade ground at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, that I would have German friends, citizens of a democratic and friendly country, I would call them a lousy* – he once said. He arrived at the camp as an 18-year-old boy detained by Germans in a surprise round-up in the streets of Warsaw. After leaving the camp, he continued his struggle against the Nazis in the Polish Underground State by helping the Jewish population. He took part in the Warsaw Uprising. After the World War Two, Bartoszewski began Polish Studies but was deleted from the student list for political reasons and arrested in 1949 to be imprisoned for five years. Despite the lack of formal education, he gave lectures at the Catholic University of Lublin and other academic institutions, including Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich. He was involved in the Polish opposition movement and detained in prison following the imposition of the Marshall Law in 1981. He wrote 50 books, thousands of articles and participated in thousands of meetings with various communities in Poland and abroad where he has always been welcome as a brilliant speaker. After Poland regained independence, he was twice appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. Highly appreciated by diplomats, he became friends with ma-



PHOTO GRZEGORZ ROGIŃSKI/KPRM

**Golden Shell was been granted to Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski in 2005**

ny top-graded politicians; he gave a speech before the German Bundestag as the only foreign guest on the anniversary of the ending of the war. Despite the hard experiences of his life, he has never lost his cheerfulness and never held any grudge, being always open to cooperation and friendship. *You need to have a thick skin or raise flowers rather than deal with politics* – he said. He has been awarded with tens of Polish and international titles, orders and prizes, including the highest Polish decoration, Order Orła Białego (Order of the White Eagle). Golden Shell was been granted to Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski in 2005.



# Whole-of-University Promotion of Social Capital, Health and Development

Trustworthy, uncorrupt, honest, and impartial government institutions that exercise public power and implement policies in a fair manner – are likely to create social trust and foster social capital, thereby contributing to better health and wellbeing in a population. However, large parts of the world’s population live under various degrees of corrupt public authorities, where children are denied education, elections are determined by money and not votes, and vulnerable groups cannot access decent jobs or basic health care. Therefore, our major challenge is how to promote good government and ethical business behavior, and how to avoid the bad ones, and their detrimental effects on social capital, health and development.



There are several reasons for the university sector to heed this challenge. Firstly, on a global level, corruption is considered one of the mayor obstacles for meaningful democracy, economic wealth and human well-being. Second, apart from direct costs, both petty and grand corruption erode trust in society and contribute to reinforcing dysfunctional norms, that can in turn undermine states’ ability to collect taxes. Thirdly, societies in which corrupt systems and unethical norms prevail provide a breeding ground for economic crisis, to which many governments react by introducing austerity measures. The combination of crisis and austerity are likely to amplify unemployment, poverty and inequality, and may lead to increased human suffering. The causal chain of events can be hypothesized as follows:

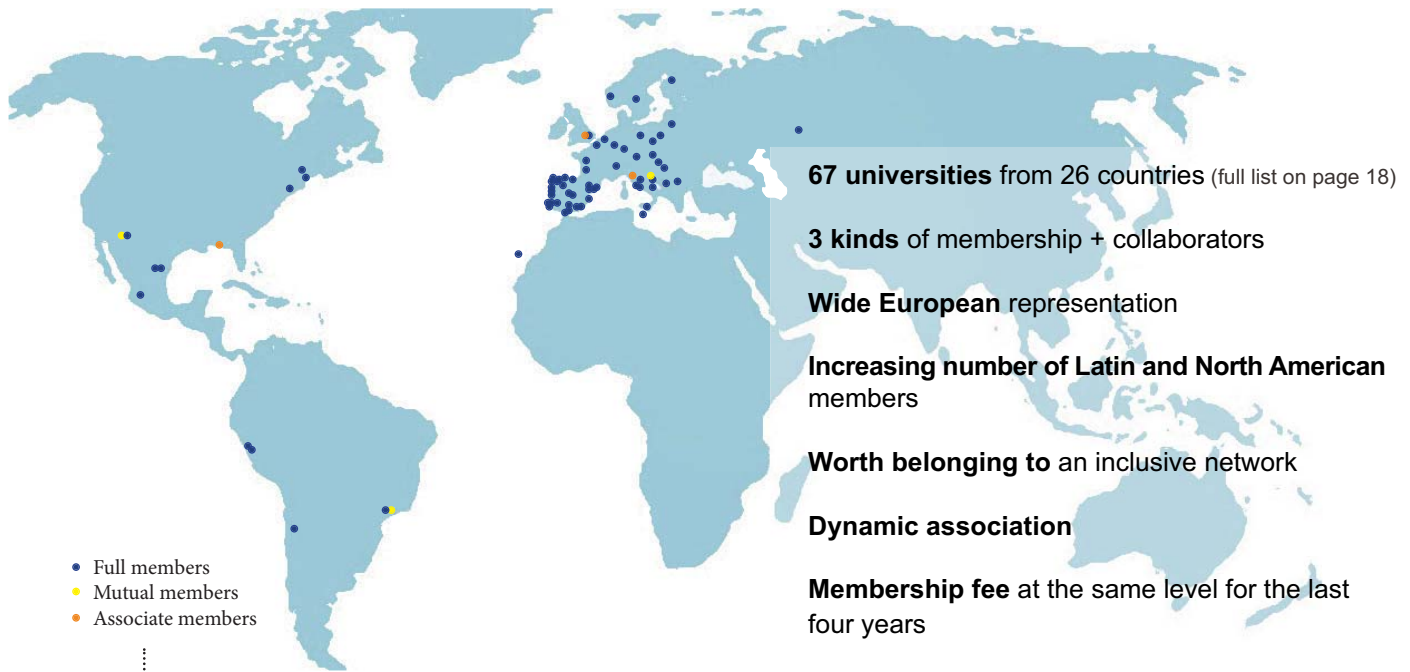
**Dysfunctional norms -> Corrupt behavior -> Economic crisis -> Austerity measures -> Unemployment, poverty, unfairness, rising inequality -> Erosion of Social trust -> Societal dysfunction -> Morbidity, mortality**

Because of the negative feedback loop the situation provides a delicate social trap from which escaping is particularly hard. It seems that by a one-sided focus on rationalism, society and the university sector, has produced individuals incapable of solving the problems of social traps. Instead of continuing the production of individuals geared towards narrow self-interests this declaration argues for a complementary curriculum, with an emphasis on social trust and ethical behavior in an attempt to promote social capital. The rational for such curriculum is provided by the following a virtuous circle, from which national health and development stands to benefit:

**Ethical citizenship education -> Trust and Social capital -> High Quality of Government -> Good level of living -> Good public health and wellbeing**

Recognizing the university sector’s potential, as well as responsibility to help shape the moral contours of society for the better, and given the societal benefits from increased social capital – we ask universities and institutions of higher education to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of ethics, transparency and anti-corruption, in a Whole-of-University promotion of Social Capital, Health and Development.

*\*For a better understanding of the theory and empirics providing the rational for the arguments presented in this abbreviated version please see the full Poznan Declaration, available at request/for download at: [gcompostela.org](http://gcompostela.org)*



**67 universities** from 26 countries (full list on page 18)

**3 kinds** of membership + collaborators

**Wide European** representation

**Increasing number of Latin and North American** members

**Worth belonging to** an inclusive network

**Dynamic association**

**Membership fee** at the same level for the last four years

## Kinds of membership

**Full members:** universities.

**Associate:** enterprises, publishing houses and other commercial organisations.

**Mutual:** institutions, associations, scientific complexes, foundations, etc.

**Collaborators:** agreements with key institutions.

## New members in 2012-2013

- Drexel University (United States of America)
- Università degli Studi 'Link Campus University' (Italy)
- Pan-European University (Slovakia)
- InEurope 2020 s.r.l. (Italy)

“Europe was formed on the road to Santiago”, Goethe said. The underlying idea of mutual understanding and collaboration between different cultures inspired the University of Santiago de Compostela back in 1994 to create the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU), a non-profit international association aimed at fostering cooperation and promoting dialogue among higher education institutions.

Bringing together 67 universities from 26 different countries, the CGU has as its primary objectives strengthening the channels of communication between the member universities, organising events for the study and discussion of different issues related to the interests of the Group and promoting mobility between members, as a basis for enhancing the knowledge of different cultures and languages. The Secretariat of the association is located in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and acts as the focal point for its members, coordinating, enhancing and promoting their activities.

The most relevant initiatives run by the CGU in the period covered in this report (September 2012-September 2013) were:

The International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia 2013, which will be awarded to Euronews during the General Council of the Group (19-21 September 2013 in Nantes, France).

The exchange programme for administrative staff, Stella 2013, which awarded a record number of 19 intercontinental mobility grants.

The three EMMA Project workshops in February, May and September 2013.

The CGU’s II International Video Contest for students, the winner of which was ‘Future’, a video by two students of the University of Monterrey (UDEM, Mexico).

The following pages will provide you more information about the CGU, its participation in projects funded by the European Commission and many other activities.

# My journey with Stella

Stella, an administrative staff exchange programme for the Compostela Group of Universities, was a pioneer project the experience of which was later used in an analogous Erasmus programme. Małgorzata Więckowska-Frąckiewicz, head of AMU International Office, took part in a one-week training under the Stella programme held in Switzerland in 2005.

PHOTO: MACIEJ MĘCZYŃSKI



I was one of the first beneficiaries of Stella, certainly the first one from the AMU. I chose the Swiss city of Fribourg because of the French language that is spoken there. I studied Romance languages, but don't really have many opportunities to practice my French. Improving one's language skills, however, is not the only benefit from administrative staff's trips abroad.

**The programme.** Everything was organised perfectly. The schedule had been sent to me by e-mail; at the train station, I was received by Marianne, a volunteer who took care of me throughout my stay. She specialised in organising stays for foreign guests, e. g. diplomats' spouses. I think there's a need for such volunteers in Poland, too. The schedule was detailed, I got a friendly reception from the departments of my choice, and we had constructive talks. I observed everything carefully, as then, nearly ten years ago, there were substantial differences between Polish and western academic institutions. We had some fun, too. A very nice surprise was prepared for me at the weekend, during a scheduled visit to a castle – a party and a gift. By viewing the forms I had filed, the organisers learnt it was my birthday on that day!

**Biggest professional surprise?** A totally different organisation of work – only one person was employed full time in a department similar to ours. The others worked part time, but everything was organised in such a way that a necessary continuity was ensured. There were only women working in that particular department – the system was surely convenient for them. Back then, nine years ago, I took notice of the plastic student IDs. We use them now but then they seemed like a rocket science to me.

**What did I learn?** Very interesting were the meetings in the student service department. I was shown, for example, how to recognise falsified diplomas, particularly with visiting students from certain African and Asian countries. At that time, we didn't know that problem at all.

**Greatest benefits from administrative staff exchange?** Lots of them, really. A brush-up and update of your language skills, useful

in later contacts with university guests or at education fairs. Possibility to compare your work with that of colleagues at other universities to see what could be changed or improved. Learning everyday life at a foreign academic institution and its environment to be able to offer practical advice to outgoing students or academics. Students travel abroad a lot as do academic staff – if the administrative staff don't they will start 'standing out' from the university team. Therefore, the importance of such trips is invaluable. It was a novelty at those times – today, around 100 members of the AMU administrative staff participate in all sorts of study visits, and in October, we receive a guest from Latin America under the Stella programme. **maj**



## Stella Programme

### Key facts on STELLA

STELLA is a **mobility programme** addressed to the **administrative staff** at the CGU's member universities.

The Secretariat gathers a **list of departments offered** by the institutions and makes it available to its members.

The CGU **grants** a number of intercontinental mobilities every year.

**One/two weeks stays** allow the participants to share experience and get to know how to improve their work.

**The latest call was launched in September 2013**

# COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES XX<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY - XX<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 'The future value of Higher Education Institutions'

**Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan (Poland)  
 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

## XX ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES

### Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014

- 15.00 – 15.30 Registration
- 15.30 – 16.00 Opening and welcome to the participants by the Rector of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and by the President of the Compostela Group of Universities
- 16.00 – 17.00 General Council meeting – Part I
- 17.00 – 17.30 Coffee break
- 17.30 – 18.15 General Council meeting – Part II
- 18.15 – 19.00 Presentation of the III CGU Video Contest winner
- 19:45 Visit to the Fara Church (on a way to the City Council)
- 20.15 Official reception at the City Council by the Major of the City (buffet)

### Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014

#### PARALLEL WORKSHOP 1

#### 'Knowledge Production in European Universities – Intellectual Adventure or Contribution to Economy?'

- 10.00 – 11.00 Opening – Presentations:
  - **'The European Research Ultra-Elite. What They Think and How They Work? A Cross-National Study of Highly Productive Academics in 11 Countries'**, by Prof. Marek Kwiek, Full Professor, Director of the Centre for Public Policy Studies, and UNESCO Chair in the Institutional Research and Higher Education Policy (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan)
  - Intervention from the representative of the European Commission Unit for Enterprise and Industry on the 'Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan'
- 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 – 12.30 Round table – discussion  
 Chair: Prof. Marek Kwiek (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan)
- 12.30 – 13.00 Conclusions and closure of the workshop

#### PARALLEL WORKSHOP 2

#### STELLA – CGU mobility opportunities for staff and students

- 11.30 – 12.00 Session STELLA Staff International Mobility Programme: *'STELLA Mobility: globalising the skills of university staff and students.'*
- 12.00 – 13.00 Round table – STELLA (for staff) and STELLA Junior (for students).  
 How to coordinate these mobility programmes at home and make the most of them.
- 13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

### XX<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

#### '1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the COMPOSTELA DIALOGUES ON HIGHER EDUCATION'

#### 'Whole-of-University Promotion of Social Capital, Health and Development'

- 14.30 – 15.30 Opening – Presentations
- 15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00 – 17.00 Round table
- 17.00 – 17.30 Conclusions and closure
- 17.30 – 18.30 Celebration of the XX<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Compostela Group of Universities and awarding of the CGU Golden Pin to acknowledged authorities within the CGU
- 18.30 – 19.00 Formal closure of the XX<sup>th</sup> General Assembly
- 20.00 Presentation of the XVIII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia to the Prize winner 2014  
 Gala dinner and dance

### Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014

- 10.00 – 14:30 Excursion to Kórnik Castle  
 (optional) Poznań International Fair  
 Gala Dinner  
 Grunwaldzka 2  
 +48 516 949 517

