



## To the Task Force Chairs, Task Force members, Coimbra Group contact persons, research offices, and Vice-Rectors of Research

Brussels, 4 March 2014

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Dear Colleague,

In December 2013 the European Commission launched *Horizon2020*, the seven-year € 80 billion research framework programme and published the first calls for 2014 and 2015. Success in *Horizon2020* will depend on strong and reliable networks of research partners across Europe and an even higher degree of interaction and collaboration than in previous framework programmes. The geographical spread and strengths of institutional relationships will be just as important as research excellence and thematic fit.

As a long established network of prominent and research-intensive universities across the whole of Europe the Coimbra Group is in an excellent position to maximize *Horizon2020* opportunities for its members. For this reason we have compiled the attached document which identifies specific opportunities for collaborative projects in *Horizon2020* of particular interest and relevance to the Coimbra Group Task Forces. Especially the third pillar of the Programme on societal challenges offers a number of topics in challenge six, 'Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies', under call 4 'Europe as a global actor', which tally with the expertise and activities of the Coimbra Group's external Task Forces. Equally topics under call 2, 'The Young Generation', are attractive to the Education, Training and Mobility Task Force, and topics under call 3, 'Reflective Societies', fit well into the work of the Culture, Arts and Humanities Task Force. The document also identifies other opportunities in areas such as the Marie Skłodowska Curie Action, where the Coimbra Group already has considerable strengths and experiences on which to build.

Since its foundation the Coimbra Group has been one of the key drivers in Europe for developing a mobility culture and increasing academic mobility. *Horizon2020* presents another and a unique opportunity to continue the successful collaboration activities also in the field of research cooperation and to maximize the opportunities available within an established and trusted network.

At the 2013 Annual Meeting in Galway the Rectors of Coimbra Group Universities decided to make an increase in research cooperation a strategic priority for the Coimbra Group in the years to come. This was reflected in the high level policy seminar for Rectors and Vice-Rectors for research April 2013 at San Servolo and it is an activity which the Rectors recommend to continue.

Of course each member university will pursue many other projects and opportunities under *Horizon2020*, but the attached document is specifically intended to assist the Coimbra Group Universities to identify opportunities for increased research collaboration through and with the help of the Coimbra Group Task Forces.

It is distributed to chairs and members of the Task Forces, to Vice-Rectors for Research and Research Offices, and to the established contact points at member universities.

You are invited to distribute the document among colleagues in your institution and to discuss with them the various opportunities it presents to your university. We hope that it will assist you to support the research profile of your institution as well as the volume and quality of research cooperation across our network.

Follow-up to this document will be on the agenda at Task Force meetings and of the Executive Board in the coming year. The Task Force chairs, the Executive Board representatives to Task Forces and the CG Office staff responsible for the Task Forces will be happy to assist you in developing ideas and exploring how the Task Forces can support project ideas and project applications. Contact details can be found on our website at: [www.coimbra-group.eu](http://www.coimbra-group.eu)

Later this spring, we will issue a similar document on opportunities arising from the EU's new *Erasmus+* programme.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Office Director, Inge Knudsen, for any queries or suggestions.

I would like to thank Professor Jürgen Barkhoff and the Research Development Office at Trinity College Dublin for their efforts in compiling and making accessible the information in this information note.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Dorothy Kelly  
Executive Board Chair