



University of the Greater Region - UniGR



UNIVERSITÉ DE LA
GRANDE RÉGION
UNIVERSITÄT DER
GROSSREGION

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Foreword

“Facilitating research and teaching without borders”, this has been the slogan of the University of the Greater Region – UniGR ever since its creation in 2008. With 6 universities from 4 founding countries of the European Union, 3 teaching languages, 135,000 students, 7,000 PhD candidates and more than 10,000 teachers and researchers, the cross-border university confederation, UniGR, is of a unique and resolutely European character. It is distinguished by the vitality of cooperation among its members.

The strengths of its strategy are shaped by the development of a large range of cross-border study offers, support in setting up joint research projects of European dimension, encouragement of mobility among academics and reinforcement of international visibility due to increased cooperation in the UniGR key areas (materials science and resource efficiency, border studies, biomedicine).

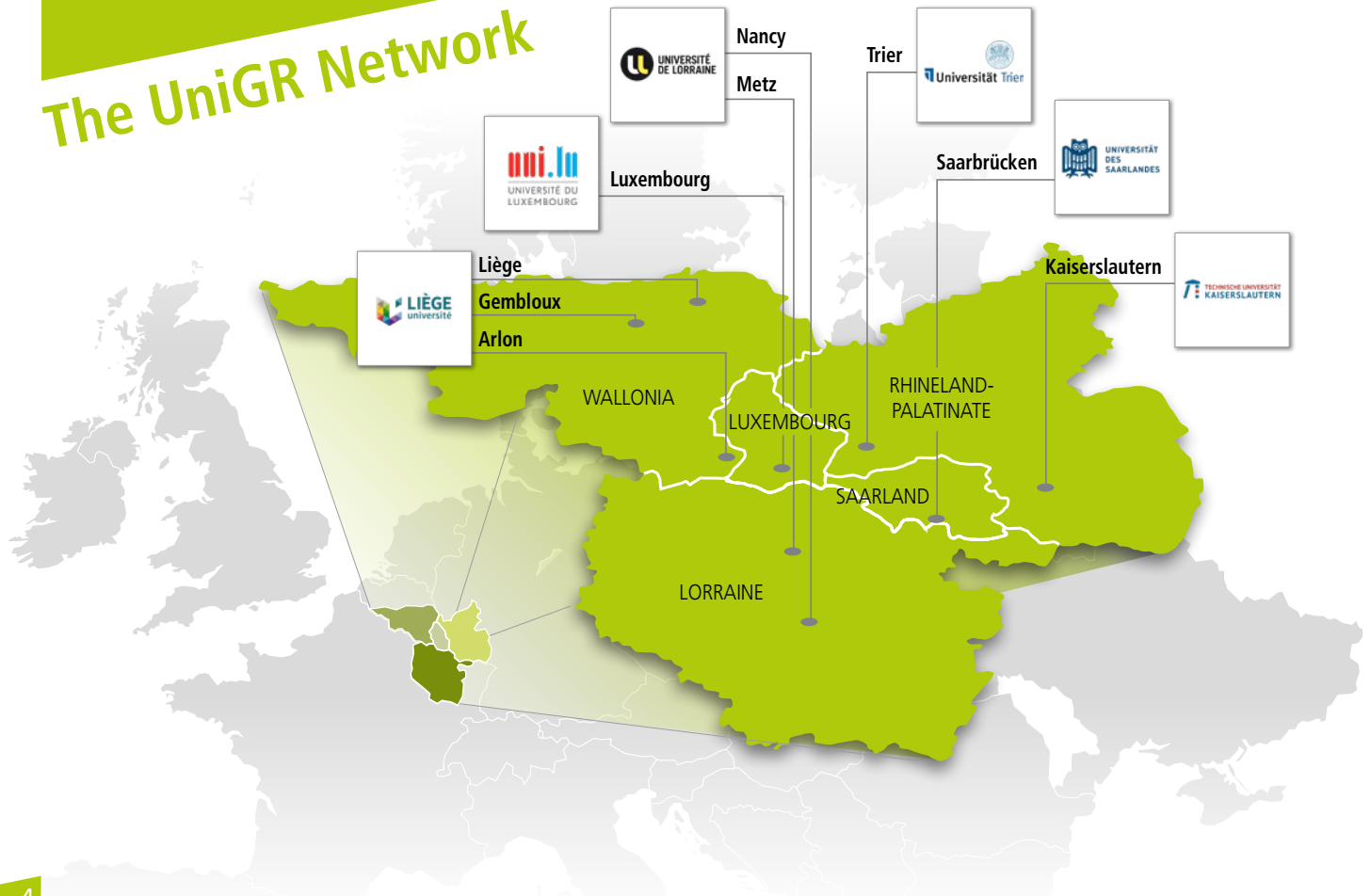
The “European University” initiative gives UniGR’s member universities the opportunity to intensify their cooperation in its multilingual confederation, to increase the mobility of students and to reinforce activities in research and innovation.

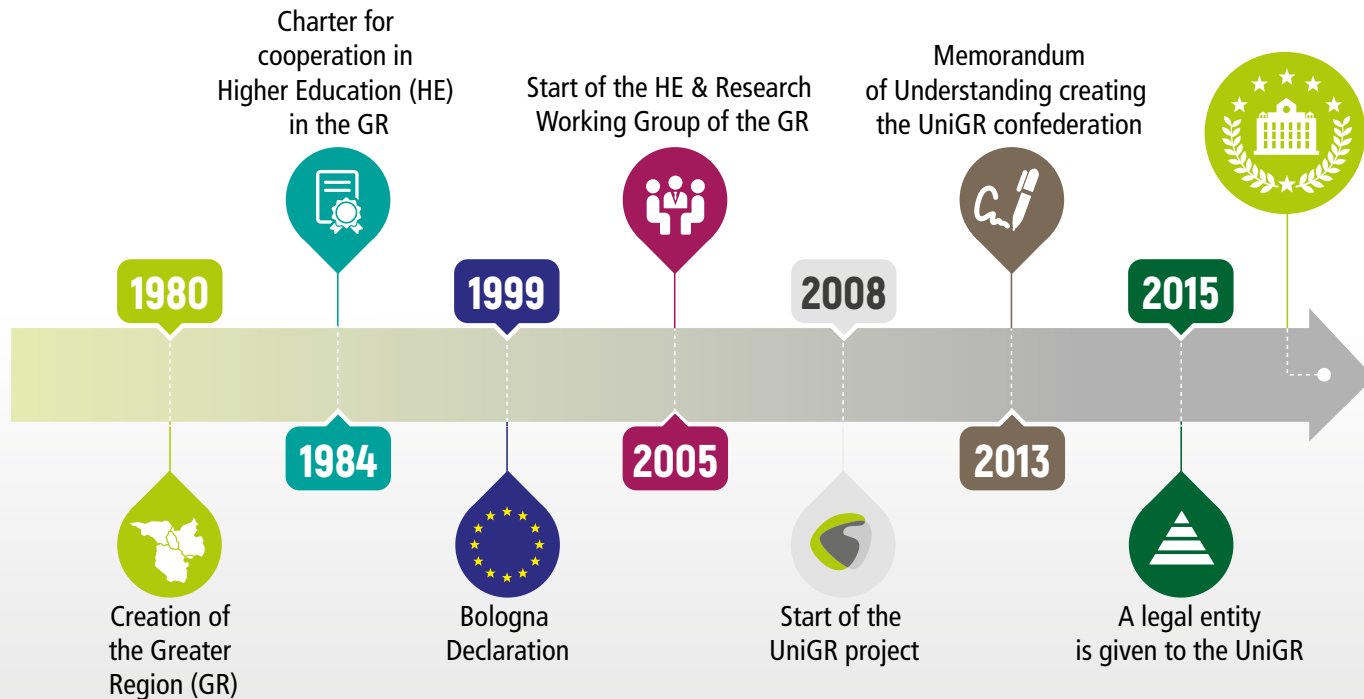
This brochure invites you to discover UniGR, to grasp the intensity of the connections among UniGR’s member universities, and to measure the opportunities and possibilities available to students, teachers, and researchers. In a nutshell, these are facilitated access to study offers of the partner universities, to discover new languages and cultures within striking distance, and to benefit from the inspiring transregional science communities.

*The Presidents and Rectors
of the UniGR partner universities*



The UniGR Network







Technische Universität Kaiserslautern

~ 14 500 students

The Technische Universität Kaiserslautern (TUK) is a medium-sized university with a focus on engineering, technology and natural sciences located directly in the Palatinate Forest.

- Characterized by strong collaboration and interdisciplinary practice
- 12 departments, close connections with renowned research institutions such as the Fraunhofer and Max Planck organizations and the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence
- Research focuses on advanced materials engineering, ambient systems, complex data analysis in life sciences and biotechnology, systems for raw material change, material compounds in construction and commercial vehicle technologies
- Offers a wide range of excellent courses in more than 100 subjects
- About 23% foreign students, several Master courses offered in English and some German-French study programmes available



University of Liège

~ 23 500 students

The University of Liège has made openness to society and the world its priority. The University develops strong collaborative arrangements with hundreds of international institutions each year.

- Campuses in Liège, Gembloux and Arlon ideally situated at the heart of Europe
- Excellence built on two centuries of academic teaching and research, an intellectual tradition in Liège since the Middle Ages
- Constantly creating new knowledge and sharing it as widely as possible
- Contributing to societal change by promoting apprenticeships and fostering creativity and the spirit of innovation
- Equipping students with cutting-edge knowledge and skills while helping them to become engaged and responsible citizens, aware of global challenges
- Encouraging talent and multiple career paths
- Sharing strong values: pluralism, freedom of thought, respect for diversity
- Accredited by international quality labels : EQUIS, AACSB, EUR-ACE, Conférence des Grandes Ecoles, etc.



Université de Lorraine

~ 60 000 students

Boasting 60,000 students of whom 10,000 come from abroad, close to 4,000 teachers-researchers and over 1,800 PhDs, the Université de Lorraine is one of the largest multi-disciplinary universities in France. Its central location in Europe, close to the German, Belgian and Luxembourg borders gives it a privileged position as well as a broad international openness.

- A comprehensive learning programme in every field: technology, health, humanities, social studies, science, arts, literature and languages, law, economics, management and engineering
- A university open to the world: N°1 university in outbound Erasmus semesters, close to 10,500 international students from around the globe, over 500 foreign teachers-researchers and 800 international PhDs, 5 Erasmus Mundus masters...
- A research dynamic spanning a large spectrum of topics: agronomics, environment, energy, biology, health, chemistry, materials, mechanics, computer science, communication, societies, legal sciences, architecture...
- Lorraine University of Excellence (LUE): 15 programmes dedicated to scientific excellence and international openness

The Partner Universities



University of Luxembourg

~ 6 300 students

The University of Luxembourg is a European research university with a distinctly international, multilingual and interdisciplinary character. It is a modern institution with a personal atmosphere, close to European institutions, innovative companies and the financial centre. Founded in 2003, the University of Luxembourg is the only public university in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

- An international university: students from over 100 different countries
- Multilingual education: mainly bilingual degrees (French/English – French/German), some trilingual degrees as well as degrees taught entirely in English by lecturers from 20 different countries
- Mobility: student exchange agreements and research cooperation with 354 universities around the world; mandatory semester abroad for Bachelor students
- Main research areas: materials science, computer science and ICT security, European and international law, finance and financial innovation, education, contemporary and digital history, data modelling and simulation, health and systems biomedicine



Saarland University

~ 16 900 students

Transcending boundaries is a hallmark of Saarland University – no matter whether these are geographical borders, cultural boundaries, barriers between academic disciplines, or outmoded divisions between academia and economic and cultural life. Saarland University at a glance:

- An international environment: 19 % international students and 22 % international scientific staff, more than 20 double degrees with international partner universities
- Particular expertise in the university's specialist fields of Europe, IT, and NanoBioMed – Life and Matter
- A campus university with interdisciplinary networking possibilities, good support and small study groups
- Comprehensive preparation for entering a career or launching a start-up
- A strong research background
- Proximity to France and Luxembourg: mobility and intercultural exchanges are a daily experience



Trier University

~ 13 000 students

In Germany's oldest city, cultural heritage meets modern science.

- A wide range of study programmes from the Humanities, Economics, Law, Social and Education Sciences to Mathematics and Computer Science, Environmental studies and Psychology, with a good supervisory relationship provided
- A green campus with short distances allows interdisciplinary teaching and creates a family atmosphere
- Rediscovering cultural heritage with cutting edge research in Digital Humanities and Archeology. Interdisciplinary and international research combines disciplines from Environmental Science and Technology Law to Stress Psychology and Survey Statistics
- Master's programmes in English as well as free, course-related language training
- Rooted in the region's history and culture, yet international: more than 190 partner universities in Europe and more than 40 partner universities throughout the world

Objectives and Functioning

Since 2008, the University of the Greater Region – UniGR has been developing a sustainable cooperation within the cross-border region of Wallonia (Belgium), Rhineland-Palatinate and the Saarland (Germany), Lorraine (France), and Luxembourg, encompassing four European countries. The joint profile of this network of six partner universities is based not only on the geographical proximity of the locations, but also on a long-standing tradition of cooperation and on the resulting strong relationship of trust between the members of the UniGR. Similarly, the common industrial and multi-cultural past of the region is used as a resource and is reflected, for example, in the multilingualism of the network and in numerous interdisciplinary projects.

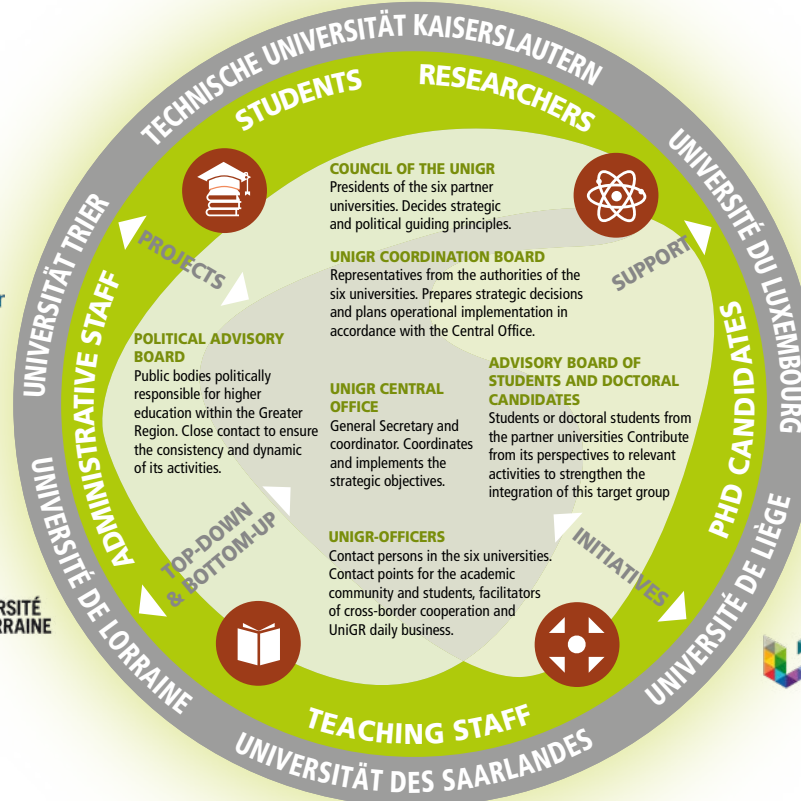
The UniGR considers itself to be a laboratory of projects and ideas for all areas of the so-called knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation. The overarching goal is to initiate a dynamic of cross-border projects in teaching and research among the six partner universities in the network.

In principle, scientific collaboration is promoted in all domains, with a special focus on the so-called “UniGR key areas” of biomedicine, border studies, materials science and resource efficiency, in which the partner institutions see a particular potential for pushing regional development as a “motor of the Greater Region”.

In this context, the “UniGR Project Factory” fulfils both a strategic top-down logic as well as a broad bottom-up approach. The bodies and employees of the UniGR at their universities and in the Central Office drive the design and development of structuring projects that are pivotal for the further alignment and development of the network. At the same time, they promote bottom-up projects that fit into the framework of the UniGR strategy; that is to say, increasing the international visibility of the network and its members, strengthening and expanding the key areas, pooling resources and using synergy effects, and improving the quality of teaching and research. The UniGR team supervises projects from the first idea up to the application for funds. Scientists receive support in their search for suitable partners from the other UniGR locations, in the organization of events or in the precise adaptation of measures to each region.



Once a project is approved, the UniGR can also be involved in its implementation and communication measures, provided it has model character and the results are transferable to other collaborations. This allows the network, on the one hand, to convert its cross-border experience into value and, on the other hand, to identify development potentials for new projects in the immediate vicinity.



Studying and Teaching at a Cross-Border Level

5 regions, 4 countries, 3 languages - infinite possibilities for studying and teaching at the University of the Greater Region

The partner universities of the UniGR offer a wide range of cross-border study programmes in various domains such as social and human sciences, as well as natural and engineering sciences. Students can benefit from a jointly chosen teaching offer leading to a double diploma or a joint degree at the end of certain study programmes.

The “UniGR student status” allows students from all fields of the six universities to attend lectures in any other partner university. When taking single courses, they are exempted from additional enrolment fees and are given the partner university's student card, with which they can eat at student prices in the university restaurants, use the university libraries as well as other services.

This also includes language classes offered by the partner universities. In order to prepare students for an exchange semester, the language centers of the Greater Region jointly offer a special blended-learning course in German and French.

In order to facilitate cross-border teaching, the UniGR offers funding, organizational support and advice to the teaching staff of the UniGR partner universities. The UniGR website provides useful information and documents for the organization of joint seminar and study programmes, e.g. the academic calendars of the partner universities and Learning Agreement templates, organised in a toolbox.

Study in Luxembourg and attend a seminar in Saarbrücken, teach at Trier University and organise a lecture together with your colleagues from Lorraine, be a PhD student at the University of Liège and use the library of TU Kaiserslautern – the University of the Greater Region makes it possible.





Prof. Dr. Claudia Polzin-Haumann, Romance Studies, Saarland University, co-initiator of the tri-national seminar “Multilingualism - Dealing with Knowledge in Multilingual Contexts”

“The living multilingualism within the University of the Greater Region is something very special. At Saarland University we have been offering a UniGR main seminar for many years together with our colleagues from the universities of Lorraine and Luxembourg, in which students do not simply learn about the subject of multilingualism, but move within this subject. They meet for a whole day in Metz, Luxembourg and Saarbrücken respectively to discuss the many facets of this topic. The costs of these small excursions are borne by the UniGR Mobility Fund. Students are not the only ones who benefit from the different professional perspectives and methodological approaches - teachers also experience in a unique way this fruitful scientific exchange and the lived experience of multilingualism.”



Wiebke Lehnert, graduate of the trinational Master’s programme in Literary, Cultural and Language History of German-Speaking Regions at the Universities of Luxembourg, Saarland and Lorraine

“During my trinational Master’s degree course in Literary, Cultural and Language History of German-Speaking Regions, I attended lectures in Metz, Luxembourg and Saarbrücken. Not only did I have the opportunity to get to know three different university systems but I also had many contacts within the border region. Here you can experience Europe on a small scale and acquire, deepen and apply inter-cultural competence on a daily basis. In addition, I will receive a German, French and Luxembourgian degree at the same time – this will certainly increase my chances on the job market! Students who are not enrolled in cross-border studies can also gather intercultural experience in the border region and gain insights into other fields of science with the help of the UniGR mobility support.”



Prof. Dr. Eric Pirard, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Liège, coordinator of EMerald – The European Master in Georesources Engineering (Erasmus Mundus)

“The Greater Region is an iconic place for those interested in raw materials management and circular economy. It is a pleasure to welcome every year truly motivated students from all over the world who value the excellence of our universities in the framework of They UniGR and beyond. They quickly discover a fascinating cultural diversity and they treasure this unique experience of ‘Europe in a nutshell’ which our region offers. I am deeply convinced that this freedom of crossing borders helps to build a more peaceful society for tomorrow.”



Nhat Thao Mac, student in the Master’s programme in Economics and Finance at the University of Luxembourg, UniGR student

“The UniGR student status gives me the opportunity to participate in the European Master in Official Statistics (EMOS) programme at Trier University. It is one of the best decisions I have made because the certificate at Trier University is a perfect extension of my studies at the University of Luxembourg. Attending these additional courses enriches my portfolio and helps me develop strong analytical and problem-solving skills. I also enjoy meeting students and teachers at the partner university. It is a very special experience to study in two European countries at the same time. I would like to thank the University of the Greater Region for providing access to the partner universities’ study offer through the easy enrolment procedure of the UniGR student status.”

Joint Research Leads to Innovation

Work at one university, benefit from an entire European research network

Be part of a European network: the UniGR confederation conducts cutting-edge research by combining the complementary research fields of the six member universities. Researchers and PhD candidates profit from the partner universities' services and infrastructure.

The UniGR focuses on the following key areas: biomedicine, border studies and materials science & resource efficiency. Here, the partner universities see great potentials for jointly using and developing existing strengths and resources in order to enhance international visibility as well as cooperation perspectives and funding possibilities.

The UniGR constitutes a network of excellence that benefits both PhD candidates and researchers.

Cooperation and support is, however, not limited to these fields. Cross-border initiatives between UniGR partners for research in any other area are also encouraged. Most of the partner universities provide seed funding to create or strengthen scientific networks within the UniGR. A common fund also helps to launch new cross-border projects by supporting the organization of cross-border scientific events. UniGR officers at all member universities support researchers in establishing new collaboration partnerships – from the organization of a joint conference or workshop to the establishment of working groups. Funding opportunities for existing and emerging partnerships are identified in order to help implement project ideas.



For PhD candidates, the UniGR offers an excellent and unique European network. Extending your doctorate with a European dimension is particularly easy within the UniGR network. Well-established cross-border collaboration and the geographical proximity between the universities facilitate the completion of cotutelle agreements. The “European doctorate label of the University of the Greater Region - UniGR” awards those PhD candidates who include research visits abroad, who profit from the course offer at the UniGR partner universities and who thus live the cross-border, European and international logic throughout their PhD.



Prof. Dr. Arnd Poetzsch-Heffter, Vice-president for research and technology, Technische Universität Kaiserslautern

"It is becoming increasingly important for universities to network with international partners. Nowadays, multinational teams work on global issues and challenges in many research disciplines. Students, graduates and young scientists have to be prepared for this situation. Within the network of the UniGR, we therefore intensify the internationalization of our young talents, support and strengthen our cross-border research activities in the region between Germany, France, Luxembourg and Belgium through the promotion of joint projects. Thus, we also increase the international visibility and attractiveness of our university locations."



Dr. Nathalie Christmann, Lepur - Department of Geography, University of Liège, Postdoc researcher / project "UniGR-Center for Border Studies"

"I conducted my doctoral thesis on housing markets in the Greater Region. My work was supported locally by the University of Luxembourg and supervised by Trier University of Trier where I studied geography. The European and international aspects of my thesis content and the conditions under which it was completed constitute great assets for my career, whether I pursue it in the Greater Region, or much further afield. Through the cross-border seminars organised by the UniGR, I was able to meet researchers in geography and land use planning from every member university within the network. Together we plan to organise discussions with professionals from the Greater Region in order to uncover and investigate the different approaches and challenges in land use planning in a cross-border environment, both now and in the future. To this end, we have formed a "land use planning" working group, bringing together researchers from the six member universities of the UniGR, under the framework of the UniGR-Center for Border Studies."



Prof. Dr. Stéphane Mangin, Institut Jean Lamour, Université de Lorraine, member of the magnetism network of the Greater Region

"The magnetism research network is very active in the Greater Region: five out of six UniGR universities have expertise in this field. Together we capitalise on the research excellence of the scientists in our network and also on our complementary areas of expertise and research equipment. We understand the added value that working within a multilingual, multicultural European network brings to our projects. To develop our activities, our network has been able to rely on stable, systematised collaboration between our universities through the UniGR confederation, and there are plenty of opportunities to reinforce our cooperation in the future."



Prof. Dr. Dominique Toye, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Liège, scientific coordinator of the research project "Improve-Stem"

"Cross-border scientific cooperation in the Greater Region means we can develop a platform for excellence, bringing together research teams from the Greater Region with complementary skills, each at the forefront of their field. In projects relating to biomedicine, biomaterials and bioengineering, some of UniGR's key areas, research is conducted on a European, even international scale. The geographical proximity of UniGR universities creates an environment where researchers can meet often and in person, which is crucial for a cohesive partnership. The UniGR enables researchers and partner universities to come together and increases the visibility of research projects, in the Greater Region and beyond."

The UniGR in Key Figures



4

COUNTRIES

In the very heart of Europe,
one cross-border region



3

**TEACHING
LANGUAGES**

French, German, English



6

**UNIVERSITIES
ONE CONFEDERATION**



10,000

**LECTURERS AND
RESEARCHERS**



135,000

STUDENTS



7,000

PHD CANDIDATES

EDITOR

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PICTURES

Uwe Bellhäuser (1, 12) - Technische Universität Kaiserslautern (6, 13) - Université de Liège (6, 13)
Université de Lorraine (6) - Université du Luxembourg (7)
Universität des Saarlandes: Iris Maurer (7), Jörg Pütz (11)
Universität Trier (7) - Michael Ehrhart (8, 10)
Fotostudio Creativ (13)



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