



UniGR Strategic Plan 2020

UniGR: a European model cross-border university:

UniGR's goal is to establish a cross-border university by 2040, based on the partnership between the seven higher education institutions, which are located in the border area of the countries that co-founded the ECSC. Starting in 2008, UniGR has used the advantages and potentials of the geographical proximity and shared history of the Greater Region to build a future-oriented higher education network with a common strategy and vision.

UniGR is now preparing the next step for its further development to become THE pioneer of a true European university. Its mission will encompass teaching, research and innovation and will expand to serve society and support the further development of the Greater Region.

UniGR plans on making use of the advantages of the Greater Region – a Europe in miniature – to establish an awareness for European citizenship, to extend the recognition of academic qualifications, to develop and implement its own degrees and study programmes as well as to establish cross-border research institutes, while simultaneously keeping a common vision for the economy of the Greater Region. This also includes the domains of vocational training, access to infrastructure, alignment of intellectual property rights and technology transfer, as well as the support of cross-border entrepreneurship.

The UniGR strategic plan envisages the following pioneering priorities:

UniGR: Experience Europe every day

With 2,595 kilometres of borders between four countries, the Greater Region is a unique region characterised by the diversity of cultures and its multilingualism in the historical heart of Europe.

In this context, UniGR's main goal is to educate generations of convinced Europeans by creating excellent conditions for study and research based on mobility between partner universities, scientific disciplines and languages.

Building on the experience of more than a decade, UniGR will promote new forms of mobility that can complement existing programmes at a European level (e.g., Erasmus+) and become an experimentation field for the European Student Card. It will also work towards better recognition of previously acquired knowledge and qualifications between European higher education institutions as well as the harmonisation of the recognition conditions, such as the gradual synchronisation of academic calendars through a common mobility period.

The graduates of the University of the Greater Region are not only highly qualified professionals, but above all Europeans who, thanks to compulsory, transversal teaching modules in all study programmes, work together in a multilingual, intercultural and interdisciplinary manner and carry the European idea into society as multipliers.

The diversity and high quality of the 19 transnational study programmes also provide UniGR with unparalleled expertise that will facilitate the creation of new and innovative study programmes that will incorporate innovative pedagogical approaches, including the use of digital technologies. This will make UniGR the frontrunner in the field of cross-border studies.



UniGR: stronghold for research and innovation in the face of the challenges of the Greater Region:

UniGR also aims to develop international visibility by specialising in specific interdisciplinary fields to address territorial and social challenges in the Greater Region. UniGR will create "European Schools" in areas of scientific excellence, combining the strengths of the partner universities and thereby creating a high-quality multidisciplinary educational offer which will be closely linked to joint research projects at the highest international level and to the innovative environment of the cross-border area. The "European Schools" will include multidisciplinary joint professorships that will act as a link between teaching and research against the background of socio-economic issues which are specific to the Greater Region.

The European Centre of Competence and Knowledge for Border Region Studies (UniGR-CBS), which has gained Europe-wide reputation during the last few years, is seen as a model for the future European Schools. An intensification of scientific cooperation in the UniGR is sought especially in those areas that have been identified as current and future challenges throughout Europe and are of particular importance in the Greater Region, for example:

- CIRKLA - Metals and Materials in a Circular Economy
- Secure Societies / Security or Trust in the digital world (incl. Cybersecurity)
- Health & Aging (incl. Biomedicine, Silver Economy)

UniGR: an "Entrepreneurial University" at the service of the further development of the Greater Region:

Thanks to UniGR's experience in the realm of the knowledge triangle, its capacity to mobilise a coherent system of actors in study and research in selected scientific fields, as well as its close ties to stakeholders of the the smart specialisation, UniGR will also be strongly integrated in the territorial context of the Greater Region.

As a key player in regional development, it will offer its expertise and knowledge to political actors. Thus, it will work in a focused way with socio-economic partners, as well as with other European and international partners in higher education and research.