

FOREWORD

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the first 2026 edition of the SGroup Newsletter. The year ahead brings many new opportunities for cooperation across our network. In this issue we outline our current priorities, share recent developments, and highlight upcoming activities that invite your involvement.

- Upcoming events and calls
- Welcome to our new members
- Funding and engagement opportunities
- Member initiatives and collaborative projects

We invite you to circulate the information of this edition within your university community and to actively contribute to the outlined activities.

The next edition will be published in mid-June 2026. With this timeline in mind, please share your invitations to international events open to our network members via this form [here](#) by **1 June**.

Thank you for your continued engagement in SGroup activities.

Communication Working Group

[Register now](#)

Think Tank Academy Spring Conference 2026

Theme: Disruptions and Innovations in Global Higher Education

20-21 April 2026 **Kaunas, Lithuania**

[Registration + Preliminary Programme](#)

Deadline: 6 April 2026

The conference will provide a platform to discuss geopolitical challenges, digital transformation, new models of collaboration, and the role of universities in building innovative and resilient international partnerships, also offering valuable networking opportunities.

The event will be hosted by [Kaunas University of Technology \(KTU\)](#), a leading Lithuanian technical university known for innovation, research excellence, and strong international partnerships.



[Visitor guide](#) (travel, accommodation, and local transport).

[Register now](#)

SGroup Staff Week 2026

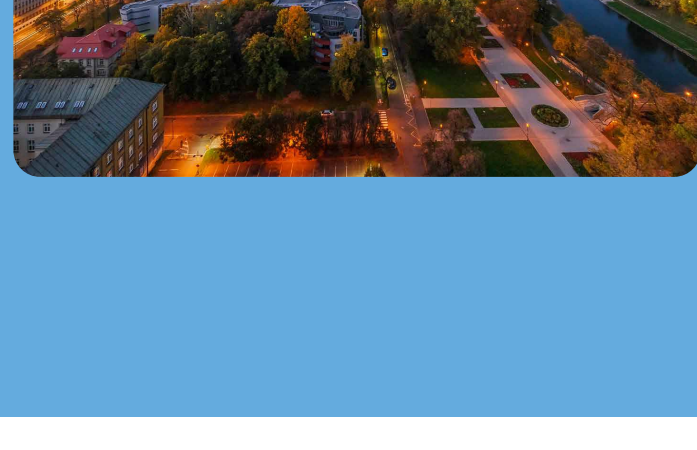
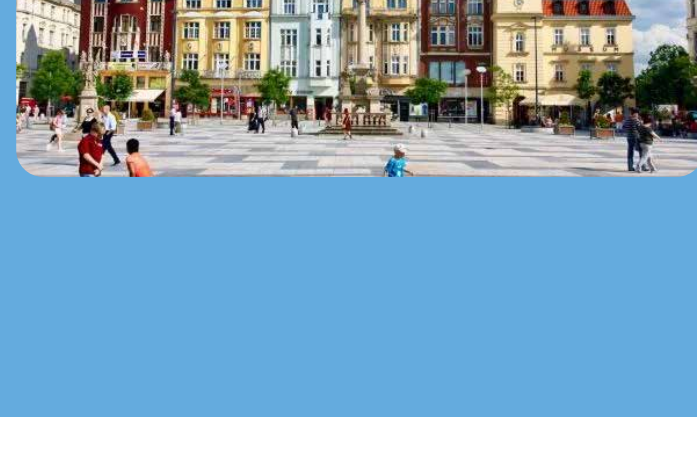
8 - 12 June 2026 **Ostrava, Czech Republic**

[Registration](#)

Deadline: 6 April 2026

Hosted by the University of Ostrava, this Erasmus BIP focuses on Resilience of International Officers. The week includes interactive sessions on time management, emotional intelligence, AI and digital well-being, burnout prevention, cultural sensitivity, and resilient international collaboration.

[Programme](#) | [Practical Guide](#)



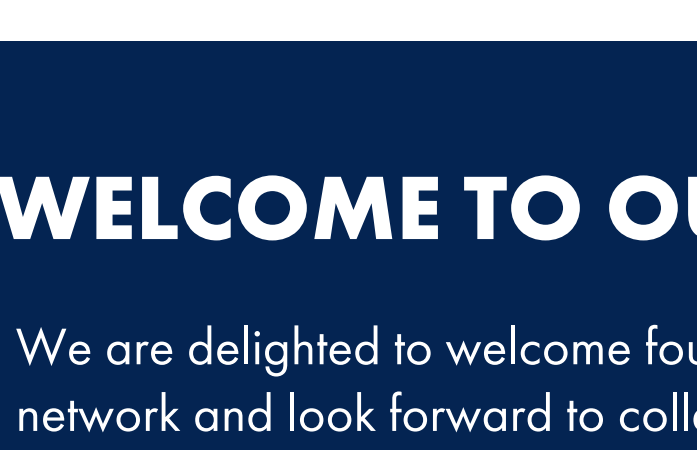
[Save the date](#)

SGroup Annual Meeting 2026

13-15 October 2026 **Gliwice, Poland**

The SGroup Annual Meetings 2026 will take place at [Silesian University of Technology](#), bringing together members from across the network for discussions, collaboration, and strategic exchange.

Please save the date, more information about the programme and registration will be shared soon.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome four new universities to the SGroup network and look forward to collaborating with them across our activities and initiatives.

Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Brazil
GA: Prof. Dr. José Celso Freire Junior — jose-celso.freire@unesp.br
LO: Prof. Patricia Spadaro — patricia.spadaro@unesp.br

Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Indonesia
GA: Prof. Dr. Unggul Wasiwitono; Prof.Dr. Astria Nur Irfansyah — international@its.ac.id, intpartnership@its.ac.id
LO: Prof. Nastiti Primadyastuti — int_off@its.ac.id, erasmus@its.ac.id

University of Lagos, Nigeria
GA: Prof. Dr. Abimbola Sowemimo — asowemimo@unilag.edu.ng
LO: Prof. Dr. Ismail Ibraheem — iibraheem@unilag.edu.ng

Savitribai Phule Pune University, India
LO: Prof. Dr. Vijay Khare — vkhare@unipune.ac.in

We warmly welcome these institutions to the SGroup community and look forward to building strong collaborations together.



ICON PROGRAMME

Running since 2017, the ICON Programme continues to strengthen collaboration and academic exchange across the SGroup network.

- 64 applications submitted by 18 member universities
- Funding available: 18 grants of up to €3,000
- Results: 30 March

We would like to thank all members for disseminating the call and encouraging participation within their institutions.

For more information on the ICON programme please visit [this link](#).



PHD CUP Training Competition

Running since 2022, the PhD CUP promotes collaboration and exchange among doctoral researchers across the SGroup network.

- 34 applications from 14 universities
- Training Sessions will take place on the 2 nd and 4 th of May
- The winners will receive a € 1,000 grant to support a research mobility of their choice.
- Results: 30 March

The top five entries will compete in Gliwice, Poland during the 2026 SGroup Annual Meetings.

Thank you to all members who helped disseminate the call.

For more information on the PhD Cup please visit [this link](#).



MEMBER NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The latest projects, events, and opportunities from SGroup member universities, relevant to the entire network and submitted through our [newsletter contribution form](#).

- Universities of Kent and Greenwich Confirm New Multi-University Group
- Kaunas University of Technology Announces Global Faculty Week 2026
- Romilda Rizzo receives Honorary Doctorate from UVa



Calendar Overview

Following Months

<p>March 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIP on inclusion, Rouen • PhD CUP + ICON Selection • Deadline PhD CUP Applications 	<p>April 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TTAcademy, Kaunas • Language and Doctorals Meeting • Virtual Component SGroup Staff Week 	<p>May 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD CUP training • PhD CUP Video Submission • BIP Valladolid 	<p>June 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline EC selection of PhD CUP • Staff Week, Ostrava • BIP Doctoral Education - Lille 	<p>July 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final details of the PhD CUP • Preparing the Annual Meetings 	<p>August 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office closed • Annual Meetings' Preparation
---	---	---	---	---	---

Contact us

Stay connected with us

Head Office
Rua do Campo Alegre 820 | 4150-171 Porto, Portugal
sgroup.office@sgroup-unis.eu



We invite you and your colleagues to follow SGroup on social media for the latest updates, news and opportunities