



General Assembly 2010 Santander Group of Universities

**University of Porto, Portugal
4th to 5th June 2010**

This year's General Assembly is designed to look forward resolutely and to consider in particular ways in which the Santander Group can remain a vibrant and sustainable network in the years to come. The notion of sustainability underpins the two days of our meeting and is viewed from different perspectives and different scales. By exploring this issue we will be building further on the ideas expressed and debated at our Tarragona and Cluj conferences. In the former case we looked at both the strengths and weaknesses of the Group and used this analysis to help us introduce a number of structural changes in our activities. At Cluj we widened the scope of the analysis and considered some of the threats and opportunities that face the Group in a European and an international context. At the same time we explored ways of bringing members closer together, in fruitful partnerships, taking account of this changed environment. Now at Oporto we want to use these building blocks to go a stage further and translate them into a sustainable long-term vision for the Group. Key related questions therefore are: What is this vision and how can we ensure that over the next decade the Santander Group is a viable and dynamic organisation?

To develop these themes we intend to examine the question of sustainability in higher education from both a European and regional perspective. How are institutions and governmental organisations approaching this issue? What are the different dimensions of sustainability? The notion is often used currently in a financial context but it can also refer to matters of governance, attractiveness for staff and students, internationalisation and responsiveness to societal needs and local communities; to be sustainable universities need to show their relevance and responsiveness to their various stakeholders.

Over the last ten years much of European Higher Education Policy has been determined and conditioned by the Bologna Process. How, therefore, does the experience of the operation of this 'structural framework' provide us with insight into educational directions and priorities for the next decade? What needs to be done to make Bologna sustainable? These are issues we will also address, again from both a European perspective and from the viewpoint of Santander Group universities.

Having discussed this context, the aim is to reflect in far more detail on the future vision of the Santander Group. This will be done by considering a set of different scenarios for our future development which will be circulated to members and will form the basis of group discussions. Subsequently the groups will be brought together for a plenary session to exchange views and formulate conclusions. These will then provide the basis for the preparation of a more detailed policy document to be prepared subsequently by a working party made up of SG members. This document could then be presented officially at the Liaison Officers' Meeting in October, leading to the presentation of a new strategic vision for the Group during the General Assembly in 2011.





AGENDA

June 3rd, Thursday

20.00 Buffet/reception for the SG General Assembly participants
Hotel Fenix

June 4th, Friday

8.30 Meeting point at the Hotel Fenix lobby

09.00-09.30 Welcome Addresses

- Professor António Marques – Vice-Rector, University of Porto
- Professor John Tuppen – President, Santander Group

09.30-10.45 “Santander Group 2020: Sustainable Universities and Networks”

Key-note speeches

- Professor Dirk Van Damme – Head of Centre for Education Research and Innovation, OECD (Paris)
- Professor Pedro N. Teixeira – Associate Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Porto and Director, Centre of Research on Higher Education Policy (CIPES)

10.45-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-12.30 “Sustainability and Bologna: an institutional viewpoint”

Round table

How does the experience of the operation of this ‘structural framework’ to higher education over the last decade provide us with insight into educational directions and priorities for the next ten years?

- **Chair:** Professor John Tuppen, President – Santander Group
- Professor Ingrid Elam – Pro Vice-Chancellor, Malmö University
- Professor Koen Goethals – Chief Academic Administrator, Ghent University
- Doctor Maria Boquera – Director of the International Academic Exchange Area, Polytechnical University of Valencia
- Professor Titus Beu - Director of the Center for International Cooperation, Babeş-Bolyai University



12.45-14.30 Lunch
Rectory of the University of Porto

14.30-15.45 **“Enhancing the Santander Group Network’s Future: Strategic Vision 2020”**
Group workshop

During the session the members will be divided into three or four groups to discuss different scenarios for the future development of the Group. The sub-groups will then be brought together for a plenary session to exchange views and formulate conclusions. These will provide the basis for a more detailed policy document prepared subsequently by a working party composed of SG members. This document will be presented officially at the Liaison Officers’ Meeting in October, leading to the presentation of a new strategic vision for the Group during the General Assembly in 2011.

- **Chair:** Mark Rogerson – Concilia and European Commission, Study in Europe Programme

15.45-16.15 Coffee Break

16.15-17.15 **“Enhancing the Santander Group Network’s Future: Strategic Vision 2020”**
Group workshop – Plenary Session

20:15 Meeting point at the Hotel Fenix lobby

20:30 Dinner
Faculty Club of the University of Porto

June 5th, Saturday

09:00 Meeting point at the Hotel Fenix lobby

09:30-12:15 **Internal business meeting**

12:30 Lunch
Restaurant “Bacalhoeiro”

15:00 Social Programme

- Visit to Taylor’s Port Wine Cellars
- Douro river boat trip

20:30 Dinner
Casa da Música restaurant

22:30 Concert
Casa da Música