



**U.PORTO**

## The Role of Universities in the Dialogue of Civilizations

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Rector of the University of Porto, Portugal  
Porto, 23 February 2017

### OUTLINE

#### The Role of Universities in the Dialogue of Civilizations

- ① Life Today in a Small Global World - Changes in Society - The Young Generation, the expectations of the 'Millenials'
- ② The major issue - Conciliation of Cultures and Civilizations
- ③ University of Porto - A Connected University
  - ③ 'Student mobility to promote piece, security and human rights'

## LIFE TODAY - GLOBALISATION A MIX OF CHALLENGES, THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES (I)

- ☞ **Disruptive Advances in Science and Technology, by the end of the XX Century**
  - **The Computer and Communications era - dramatic changes of the concepts of time and space**
  - **Advances in Life Sciences - The increase of Expectation of Life**
- ☞ **Major political changes in the World, the Fall of the Berlin Wall, on 9 November 1989**
- ☞ **Increase of Expectation of Life brought instability in the European Social Model - work longer years, smaller retirement pensions**

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## LIFE TODAY - GLOBALISATION A MIX OF CHALLENGES, THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES (II)

- ☞ **The global market economy - driving today's Societies**
  - **Sharp increase in competition Worldwide**
  - **Volatility of jobs**
  - **Job market and opportunities, wider than ever**
- ☞ **Very significant changes in the concept of individual career management, mainly for Young People**
- ☞ **Very significant changes in the concepts of education**
- ☞ **An evolution that we have to understand and support, mainly by adapting the STRUCTURE AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE OFFER OF EDUCATION - hard to put in place**

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## LIFE TODAY - GLOBALISATION

### A MIX OF CHALLENGES, THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES (III)

- ☞ **Digital networks vs. Social Networks**
  - **Leading movements powerfully connected**
  - **New job opportunities... For a minority**
  - **The other side of the coin - manipulation of Society**
- ☞ **World is becoming multipolar**
- ☞ **Formal Power is being overcome by Factual Power**
- ☞ **Mobility gives rise to 'Spiritual Territories'**

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## LIFE TODAY - PEOPLE

### EDUCATIONAL NEEDS FOR THE GENERATIONS OF THE FUTURE

- ☞ **Today, as in the past, the issue is to train and widen the scope of thinking of young people, providing cultural knowledge of the World**
- ☞ **BUT, just some major differences from the past and a major difference for the future are that 'millenials':**
  - **will live longer**
  - **will work longer**
  - **will have to study longer**
  - **more and more will have to work away from the original home**
  - **indeed will have to think global, just to the dimension of Earth (... or even beyond...)...**

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## LIFE TODAY

### THE PARADOX OF PROGRESS OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS

- ☞ **9/11 - was it the beginning of a new 'era'? Is there a reversion?**
  - **Migrants**
  - **Large scale regional wars**
  - **Hunger and refugees**
  - **Peace**
  - **Security**
  - **Human Rights**
  
- ☞ **We are learning, We shall be able to learn with the tragedy**

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## FOR TOMORROW – POLITICAL VISION AND WILL

### CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES TO BE TACKLED

- ☞ **Huntington (1993) - The Clash of Civilizations?**
  - **“the world will be shaped in large measure by the interactions among seven or eight major civilizations. These include Western, Confucian, Japanese, Islamic, Hindu, Slavic-Orthodox, Latin American and possibly African civilization”**
  
- ☞ **We should revisit Flewelling (original 1951) - Conflicts and Conciliation of Cultures and Civilizations - a major old issue for the future**

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## FOR TOMORROW – PEOPLE'S VISION AND WILL

- ☞ I believe that people are learning with and from the tragedy
- ☞ People want to take action in order to conciliate the World
- ☞ Peace, security and Human Rights are back in the main concerns of people
- ☞ We should not underestimate the power of the 'connected world'
- ☞ We should not underestimate the power of vote
- ☞ We have to use this major instrument of Culture and Education

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**UNIVERSITY OF PORTO**

**Strong Commitment to International Cooperation,  
mainly to Student Mobility**

U.PORTO

- ☞ Centres for development and transfer of knowledge, in all areas
- ☞ Centres for reflection, research and education
- ☞ Spaces of human freedom
- ☞ Spaces for human interaction

- ☞ A comprehensive University whose genesis dates back to the XVIII century, born in a historical old City, Capital of the most industrialised Region of Portugal - The North Region
- ☞ An University nationally at the top of all quality indicators, in all main interrelated areas of its mission:
  - Education
  - Research
  - Third Mission of valorisation of knowledge
- ☞ An university at the top of international cooperation in ERASMUS programmes for mobility of students, faculty and staff

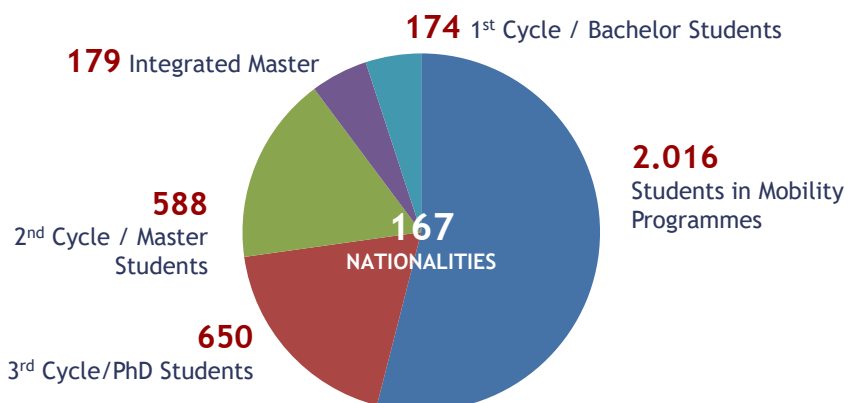
## But Equally,

- ☞ An University fully committed to Society in Social Dimension and Social Responsibility
- ☞ An University fully committed to promoting Culture and Sports

## In All,

- ☞ An University consistently ranked between the 50-150 best universities in Europe, globally and in field specific evaluations

### 3.607 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (2015/16) (12% TOTAL)





**More than 4000 students from 129 Countries -13% of total students - Welcome reception on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**



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**ON 22 FEBRUARY 2017 - HER EXCELLENCY, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO, WITH STUDENTS**



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**THE U.PORTO IN THE ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGRAMME  
(ACTION 2) - 2009-2014**

1st Project Coordinated with Brazil, 2008)



48 Consortia



2014 Rankings: U.Porto is a leading Institution in Europe:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> European University with more coordinated projects (9)
- 5<sup>th</sup> European University with higher participation in partnerships (39)

### THE U.PORTO IN THE ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGRAMME (ACTION 2) - 2009-2014

9 Coordinations



5 Continents

142 Countries

792 Institutions involved

39 Partnerships



7.612 Mobility flows

151 Million euros in total

36 Million euros managed  
by U.Porto

### U.PORTO IN THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME 2016

4 Coordinations

5 Continents

-80 Countries

>500 Institutions Involved

13 Partnerships

1.721 Awarded Scholarships  
(376 for non EU countries)

>9 Millions of euros in Total

-3,5 Millions of euros Managed by U.Porto





**U.PORTO** PORTO, EUROPEAN BEST DESTINATION 2017

A large yellow circular graphic is centered over an aerial view of Porto. The graphic contains the text 'Porto.' at the top, 'EUROPEAN BEST DESTINATION 2017' in the middle, and '\*PORTO\*' below it. At the bottom of the circle, it says 'THANK YOU!'. The background shows the city's colorful buildings and the Dom Luís I Bridge over the Douro River.

**EUROPEAN BEST DESTINATION 2017**

- Porto was elect on 10<sup>th</sup> February European Best Destination 2017
- Worldwide travellers from 174 countries voted Porto in the first place for European Best Destination 2017.
- Porto is exceptional in more ways than one and the "Cidade Invicta" (unvanquished city) is history, is architecture, culture, gastronomy, trade, encounters and discoveries.

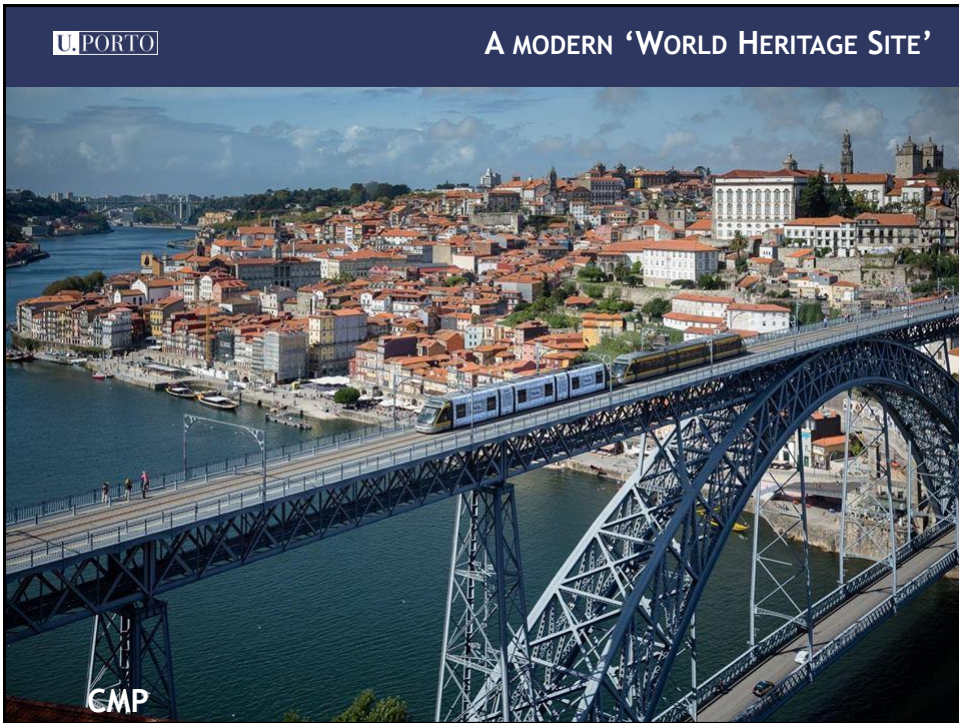
**U.PORTO** PORTO AND GAIA - FROM THE DAYS OF THE ROMANS

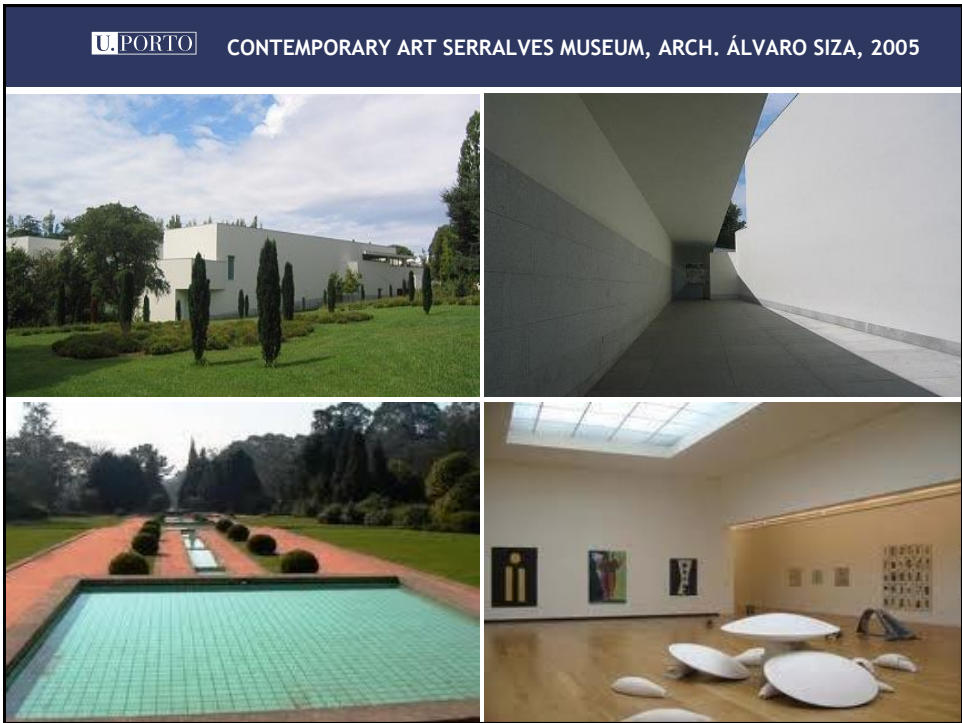
An aerial photograph of the Douro River valley between Porto and Gaia. A red arrow points from a callout box on the left to a cluster of buildings along the riverbank. Another red arrow points from a callout box on the right to a bridge crossing the river. The callout boxes contain the text 'Port Wine Cellars' and '2000 years ago Portus Cale' respectively.

**Port Wine Cellars**

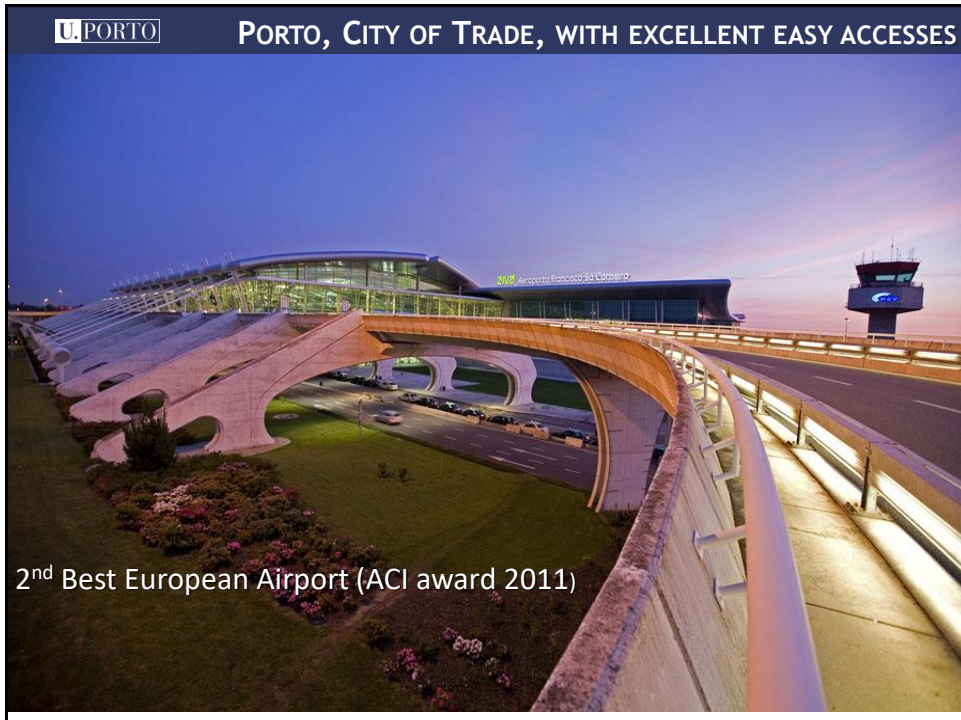
**2000 years ago Portus Cale**

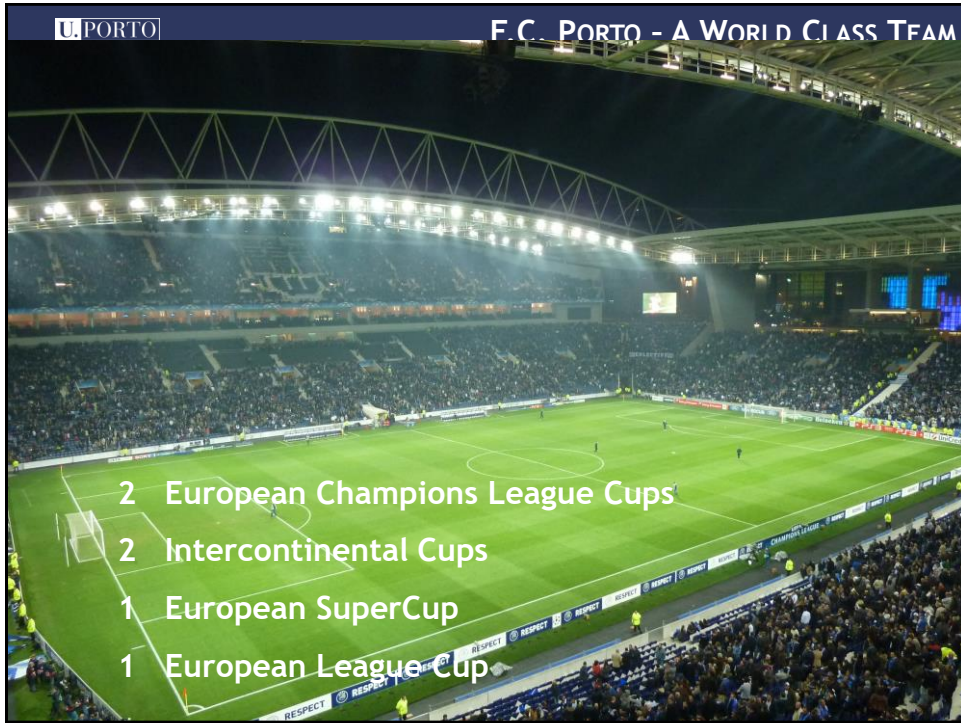












**City of Innovation**  
**A Connected University**

CONNECTED UNIVERSITY

**A major instrument for the Dialogue of Civilizations**

The central image is an aerial view of a city, likely Porto, with a network of white lines and dots overlaid on it, symbolizing connectivity. The text 'CONNECTED UNIVERSITY' is written across the middle of the image. To the left, there is a smaller inset image of a waterfront building at night. To the right, there is another inset image of a modern building's interior structure at night.



