

THE MAGALHÃES NETWORK

2005—2025



— THE FIRST —
20 YEARS

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magalhaes-network.org

CREDITS FOR THE BACK COVER IMAGE:

Southern Celestial Map of Mestre João Faras

Tentative identification of the stars depicted in the celestial map of the southern hemisphere by astronomer-physician Mestre João Faras, as sketched in his letter dated May 1, 1500 from 'Vera Cruz' (newly-discovered Brazil) to King Manuel I of Portugal. In a way, the first modern European to see (and disseminate the image of) the Southern Cross.

Foreword

Anna Maria Bernini

Minister of University and Research of the Italian Republic

Separated by an ocean, united by culture. In this way, even great distances can become truly small. The cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean speak to Europe — and Europe in turn — through a network of universities spanning both shores of the Atlantic. When universities are the ones in dialogue — with the mobility of people and talent first of all, with the ambition to design together, and with the clarity to build networks — the result is a powerful sum of knowledge. A sum that is never merely arithmetic, but a multiplier of potential. It points toward a destiny of global leadership that strengthens not only the institutions themselves, but their countries as well.

The fields in focus are engineering, architecture, and technology — domains closely bound to the future. The twenty years that the Magalhães Network is celebrating in Turin with its General Assembly mark an open chapter on this horizon: open, and therefore always ready to seek new alliances, within academia and beyond. It is a path of steady growth, where new members are welcomed and the horizon widens to other countries. Step by step, achievements are allowed to consolidate so that new initiatives can take root within a proven, efficient platform.

It is a journey to be proud of, a modern model for today's open university. Knowledge thrives in open spaces, across open disciplines, and through shared projects. This is the unifying challenge — stronger than any commercial or military agreement. Sustained by understanding among institutions that are physically distant, it makes exchanges and collaborations more fruitful, because each university brings its own distinct contribution to the common store of knowledge.

We might call it 'the higher education of the two worlds': a bridge that spans the ocean and brings into dialogue the sensibilities of distant centres of excellence — the link between science and the future.



Roberto Zanino, President
of the Magalhães Network

Introduction

Roberto Zanino¹ / President of the Magalhães Network

Rector's Senior Advisor for International University Networks
and the European University Alliance Unite!
Politecnico di Torino (Italy)

The intercontinental university Network Magalhães celebrates this year its 20th anniversary. This booklet is aimed at providing the reader with an archival summary of the status and achievements of the Network so far, as well as of the outstanding challenges for the future.

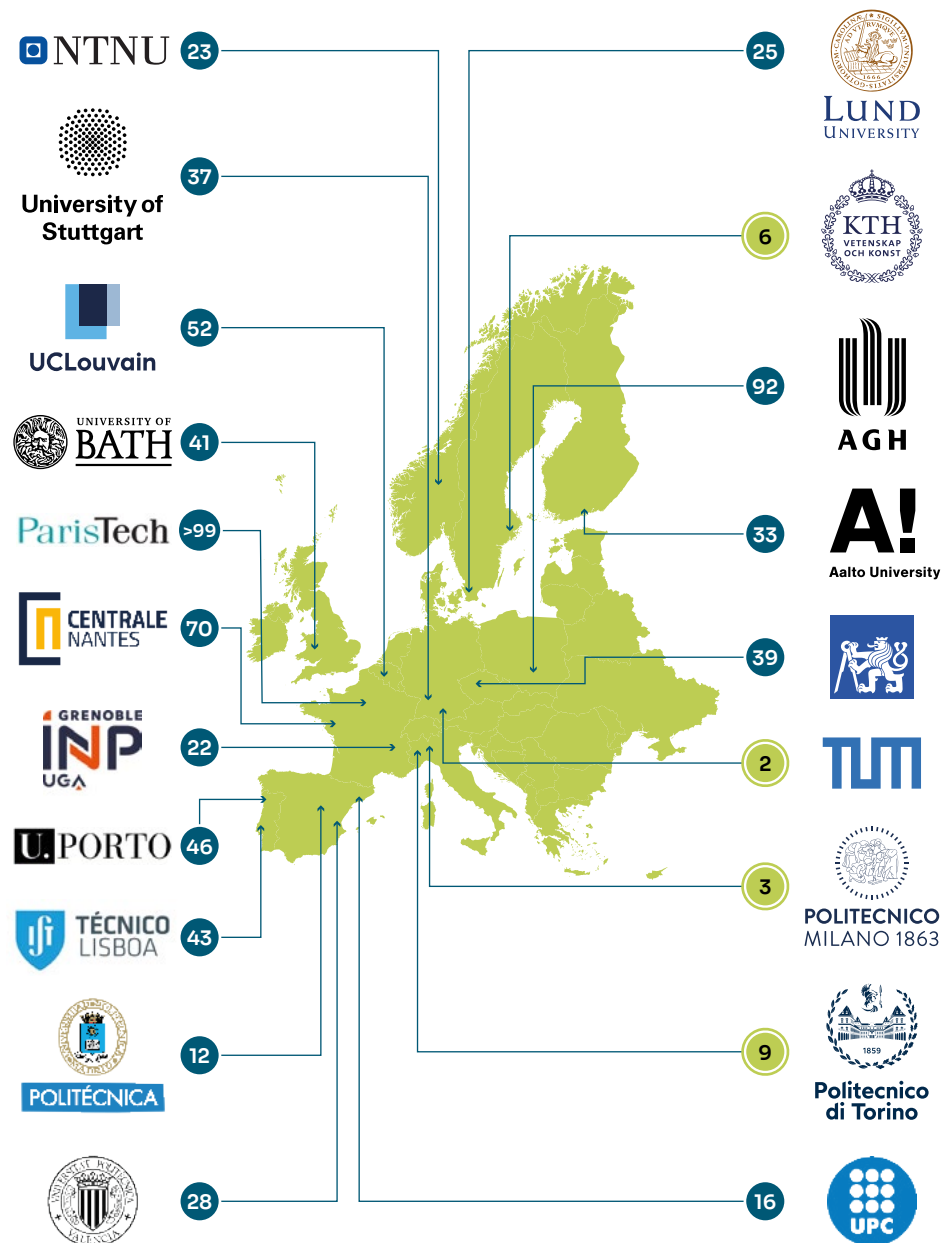
500+ years ago, Fernão de Magalhães saw for the first time the shores of Brazil, more than three months after he had left from Spain navigating westwards. Today, flying from Lisbon to São Paulo takes about 10 hours, but, as a network which took its name from that great visionary, we are still inspired by his dream of connecting the northeast and the southwest sides of the Atlantic.

Magalhães members represent an excellence on both sides of the Atlantic, which is confirmed, e. g., by the fact that the Network has included the top 10 LAC universities of the QS ranking for several years now, as well as different members of the EU top 10 universities in the engineering & technology subject category, as shown in the figure below.

My adventure in the Magalhães Network started in 2018, when I was elected Vice-President during the General Assembly (GA) meeting that was held at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, and I had the pleasure to maintain that role during both mandates of the Presidency of Silvia Caro. I was then elected President at the GA meeting that was held at TEC Monterrey, Mexico, and unanimously confirmed in that role for a second mandate during the GA meeting which took place at University of Bath, UK.

This period covers a significant fraction of the second 10 years of the Network, and the present booklet is the

¹ I wish to sincerely thank the Magalhães Steering Committee members, see p.14 below, and the Presidency team, Elisa Armando, Alberto Godio and Piergiorgio Rossi, for their constant passion, dedication and commitment. The achievements described in this booklet would have been hardly possible without their support.



Roberto Zanino
Politecnico di Torino (Italy)

ideal continuation of the one celebrating the first decade published in 2015, which you can download at magalhaes-network.org.

Particularly during the Politecnico di Torino presidency, the Network has undergone many changes. As you will read in the following, Magalhães has first of all significantly broadened its scope, originally purely educational and focusing on student mobility at the MSc level, to include both PhD and Research&Innovation, as well as efforts to engage the networks of European Chambers of Commerce and the European University Alliances in its activities.

It has also increased the number of LAC members from 18 to 20, the then maximum, including in particular one from a country, Uruguay, not represented until then.

It has changed the name of the Follow-Up Committee to Steering Committee (SC), more appropriate to its new role, and, simultaneously, the maximum number of members on each side of the Atlantic has been increased to 25, with a plan of a moderate growth over the next few years and the intention to in particular further broaden the geographical coverage of the Network, including new members from hitherto not represented countries.

All of these changes have been reflected in the new Statutes, approved by the GA during its meeting in Santiago, Chile in 2024. They also show the Network's commitment to keeping up with ever changing times as well as adapting to new world scenarios.

The SC, which originally met just once and in person between successive GA meetings, i.e. every 6 months, meets now bimonthly, typically alternating two online meetings with one in-person meeting, and I consider this to be one of the most important innovations, especially remarkable in view of the voluntary nature and absence of a fee for the

→ Introduction by the President

Roberto Zanino
Politecnico di Torino (Italy)

Magalhães membership, which has guaranteed a continuity of actions of the Network, otherwise incompatible with a structure made only of annual GA meetings/spikes only, as typical of other networks.

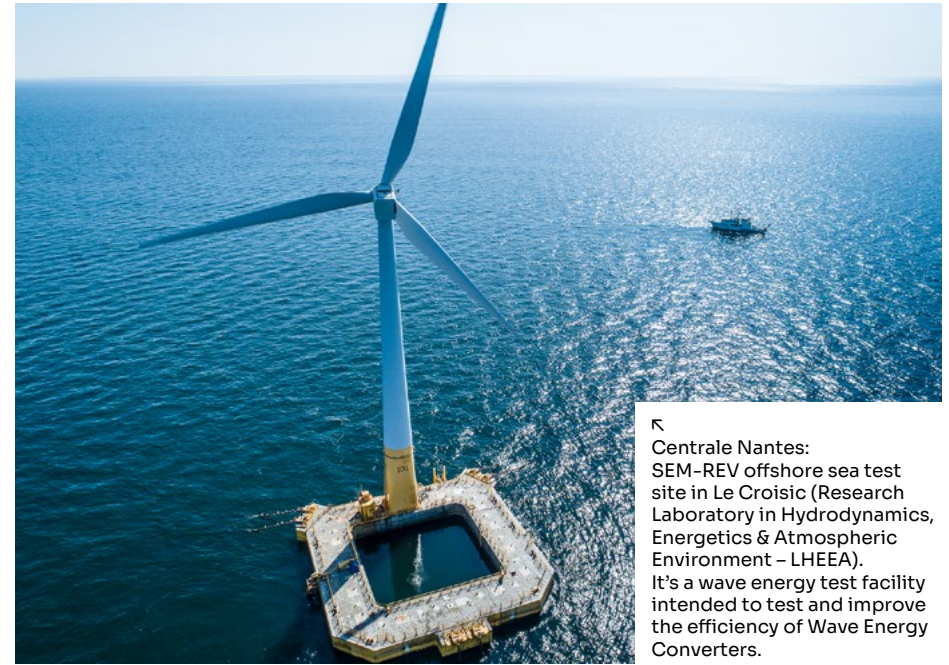
At the end of 2023, after I had been appointed as Italian representative among the Senior Officers of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research&Innovation by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR), I had the pleasure to present the Magalhães Network to that distinguished group, which met in Brussels hosted by the European Commission. In that event, it was clear to me that we still have to travel a long road, before the role of Universities and University networks, and of higher education in general, is properly acknowledged, notwithstanding the full resonance and alignment between, e.g., the vision and mission of the Magalhães Network and the EU-CELAC strategic roadmap, and, more generally, the fact that there can hardly be any Research&Innovation without higher education.

Indeed, the Magalhães Network has an extraordinary potential to become a non-negligible player in the relations between EU and LAC. This rather strong statement is based on the top quality of its members; on the mutual trust developed among them and the resulting commitment they have demonstrated over its 20 years of history; on the deep cultural affinities among the countries represented in the Network — just think of the fraction of population of EU origin in several LAC countries; on the capability of the Network to address some of the global challenges like the green and digital transition coordinating the joint efforts towards their solution from both sides of the Atlantic. We hope that this potential can be fully realized by Magalhães in the next future, so let's toast to the next 20 years of our Network!

TORINO, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

→ Introduction by the President





⌂ Centrale Nantes: SEM-REV offshore sea test site in Le Croisic (Research Laboratory in Hydrodynamics, Energetics & Atmospheric Environment – LHEEA). It's a wave energy test facility intended to test and improve the efficiency of Wave Energy Converters.



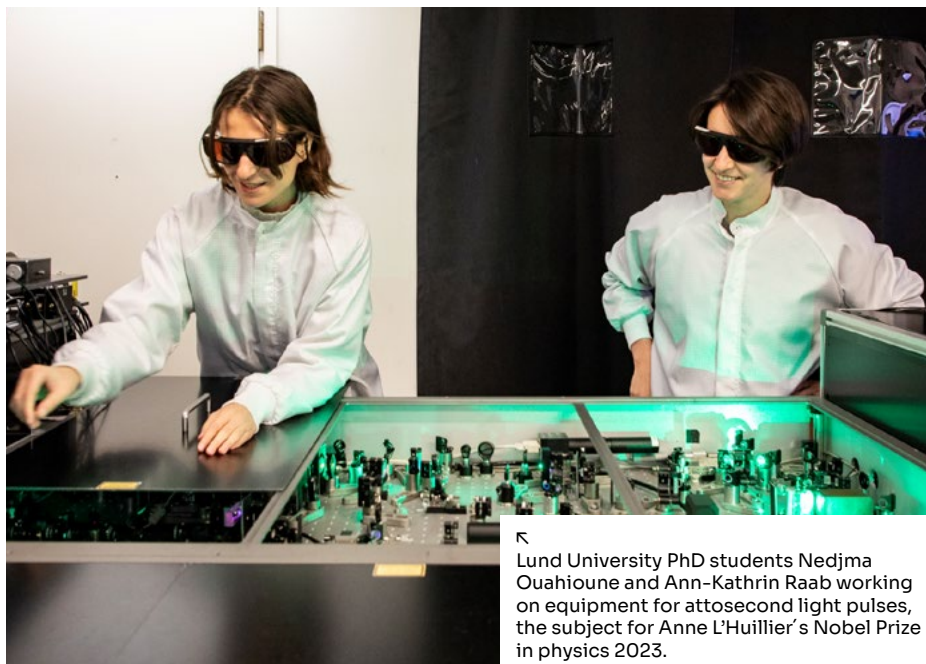
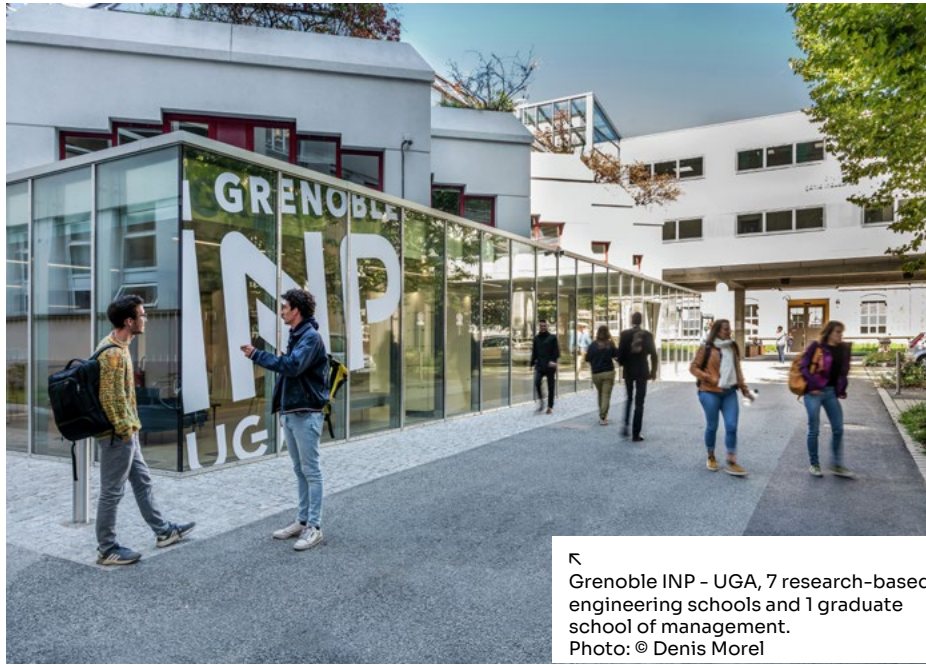
Pontifica Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, 2023: Steering Committee meeting ↑



⌂ Czech Technical University in Prague has spring in its step: a metaphor for a friendly, though professionally demanding, 300-year-old technical university at the heart of Europe.

Aerial view of Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto's inclusive and sustainable campus - a university without walls, where engineering drives innovation and global impact.
Photo: © Francisco Piqueiro





↑ UNICAMP, Brazil, 2025: Steering Committee meeting

List of current members

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY
ARGENTINA	Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires
	Universidad de Buenos Aires
BRAZIL	Universidade Estadual Paulista "Julio de Mesquita Filho"
	Universidade de São Paulo
	Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
	Universidade Estadual de Campinas
CHILE	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
	Universidad de Chile
	Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María
COLOMBIA	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
	Universidad de los Andes
	Universidad del Norte
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra
MEXICO	Instituto Politécnico Nacional
	Tecnológico de Monterrey
	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
PANAMA	Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá
PERU	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
URUGUAY	Universidad de la República
VENEZUELA	Universidad Simón Bolívar

List of current members

EUROPE



COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY
BELGIUM	Université catholique de Louvain
CZECH REPUBLIC	Czech Technical University in Prague
FINLAND	Aalto University
FRANCE	Grenoble INP
	Groupe des Ecoles Centrales
	ParisTech
GERMANY	University of Stuttgart
	Technical University of Munich
ITALY	Politecnico di Milano
	Politecnico di Torino
NORWAY	Norwegian University of Science and Technology
POLAND	AGH University of Krakow
PORTUGAL	Instituto Superior Técnico – Universidade de Lisboa
	Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto
SPAIN	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
	Universitat Politècnica de València
SWEDEN	Lund University
	KTH Royal Institute of Technology
UK	University of Bath

Brief description of the governance structure of the Magalhães Network



The Magalhães Network is governed by the **General Assembly**, its highest decision-making body, composed of one representative from each member institution with exclusive voting rights, as well as additional participants from same institutions. The Assembly meets at least once a year, alternately in Europe and Latin America/Caribbean, to define the Network's strategic direction, vote on the admission of new members, approve major measures, and elect the President, Vice-President, and Steering Committee members. Extraordinary sessions may also be convened when required.

The **President** and **Vice-President**, elected for two-year terms (renewable once) from institutions on opposite sides of the Atlantic, chair the General Assembly and oversee the Network's activities. The Vice-President assists and substitutes the President when necessary, ensuring balanced leadership and continuity.

The **Steering Committee**, which includes the President, Vice-President, and four additional elected representatives from different countries (two for each side of the Atlantic) also serving two-year terms (renewable once), administers the Network's activities between General Assemblies. It evaluates membership applications, monitors compliance with membership criteria, sets up working groups, and proposes new initiatives and strategies to the Assembly.

This governance framework guarantees inclusive representation, transparency, and effective transatlantic collaboration among all member institutions.



↖
Magalhães General
Assembly, São Paulo, 2016



↗
Magalhães General Assembly,
Santiago de Chile, 2024

The Magalhães Network: The view of the founding fathers

José Manuel Páez

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)
y Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)

-

Ángel Álvarez

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)

La chispa que impulsó la Red Magalhães

A principios de 2005, en la Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), nos dimos cuenta de que, a pesar de los fuertes vínculos históricos y culturales entre España y Latinoamérica, no existía una movilidad estudiantil relevante entre nuestra universidad y las latinoamericanas. La experiencia era similar en muchas otras universidades europeas, que por lo demás eran socios importantes para nosotros en el programa Erasmus. La idea de la Red surgió así de una frustración compartida: la falta de movilidad estudiantil significativa entre Europa y Latinoamérica, en particular en las áreas tecnológicas. Había muchísimo potencial sin explotar, muchos puentes aún por construir. Como resultado, surgió una visión: transformar esfuerzos aislados existentes en una comunidad global de aprendizaje y conectada. Además, creíamos firmemente en el programa europeo Erasmus y estábamos convencidos de que la misma fórmula podía aplicarse a otras partes del mundo, incluso sin el apoyo de una agencia de financiación supranacional, solo con visión y determinación.

¿Por qué el nombre Magalhães?

El nombre Magalhães tiene un profundo simbolismo. Al igual que el gran explorador Fernando de Magallanes, quien se atrevió a conectar confines del mundo con valentía e imaginación, esta red se propuso unir universidades de distintos continentes. El sueño no se limitaba al intercambio estudiantil con Latinoamérica, sino a una colaboración académica más duradera.



Magalhães General
Assembly, Bogotá, 2018:
Per Warfvinge,
Christina Grossmann,
José Manuel Páez

José Manuel Páez, Ángel Álvarez

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) y Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)

Antes de empezar

Antes de la creación de la Red, ya existían algunos programas de movilidad entre universidades europeas y latinoamericanas. Existían acuerdos bilaterales, pero carecían de coherencia, visión e impacto en volumen y ámbitos. Lo que lo cambió todo fue el compromiso compartido de 31 universidades fundadoras (instituciones que creíamos en el poder multiplicador de la unión). Nos unimos para construir algo más grande que ellas mismas: un único acuerdo multilateral, una verdadera alianza académica.

Gobernanza: Una historia de equilibrio y confianza

Cabe destacar la rapidez y la armonía con la que se estableció el modelo de gobernanza:

- Voz y representación equitativas para ambas regiones.
- Una presidencia y vicepresidencia rotatorias por región que honraban la colaboración.
- Un Comité Directivo que representaba a ambas regiones por igual.
- Y el eje central: una Asamblea General donde cada universidad pudiera ser escuchada.

Hasta ahora, solo cinco universidades han ostentado la presidencia en estos 20 años, habiendo ocupado previamente la vicepresidencia: la Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, la Universidad de São Paulo, la Universidad de Lund, la Universidad de los Andes y el Politécnico de Turín. Cada capítulo de liderazgo se basó en el anterior con continuidad y esmero.

Una red basada en el compromiso, no en membresías

Esta no es una red de cuotas ni obligaciones. Es una red de generosidad. La universidad que ostenta la presidencia aporta su tiempo y apoyo técnico desinteresadamente durante un periodo máximo de cuatro años. Lo que impulsa esta estructura no es la política, sino el propósito: un profundo compromiso con el intercambio académico y un futuro compartido de colaboración.

→ The Magalhães Network: The view of the founding fathers

José Manuel Páez, Ángel Álvarez

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain) y Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain)

Un homenaje a quienes la construyeron

Durante más de dos décadas, innumerables profesionales han dado un paso al frente para representar a sus instituciones, liderando la internacionalización con visión y corazón. A cada uno de ellos, les debemos nuestro más sincero agradecimiento. Pero hay una persona cuyo legado merece una mención especial: Giancarlo Spinelli, del Politécnico de Milán. Durante años, Giancarlo no fue solo un participante; fue nuestra brújula y guía. Su pasión y liderazgo moldearon el alma de esta red. Incluso después de su fallecimiento, su influencia perdura.

De 31 a 50 universidades: Creciendo con Propósito

El grupo original de 31 universidades sentó unas bases sólidas. Hoy, la red incluye:

- 20 universidades por región, es decir, 20 de Europa y 20 de Latinoamérica
- 12 países de Europa
- 10 países de Latinoamérica

En respuesta al gran interés de muchos otros socios, la Asamblea General aprobó recientemente una expansión, con un total de 50 universidades, 25 de cada región, lo que permitirá incorporar aún más naciones y voces a la Red.

Una Nota Personal

Para mí, José Manuel Páez, servir como primer presidente de la Red en 2005 por 5 años, durante mi etapa en la Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, ha sido uno de los mayores honores y satisfacciones de mi carrera académica. Años después, durante mi servicio en el Tecnológico de Monterrey, tuve nuevamente el privilegio de ayudar a integrar al Tecnológico a la Red en 2018, un momento de orgullo personal y profesional.

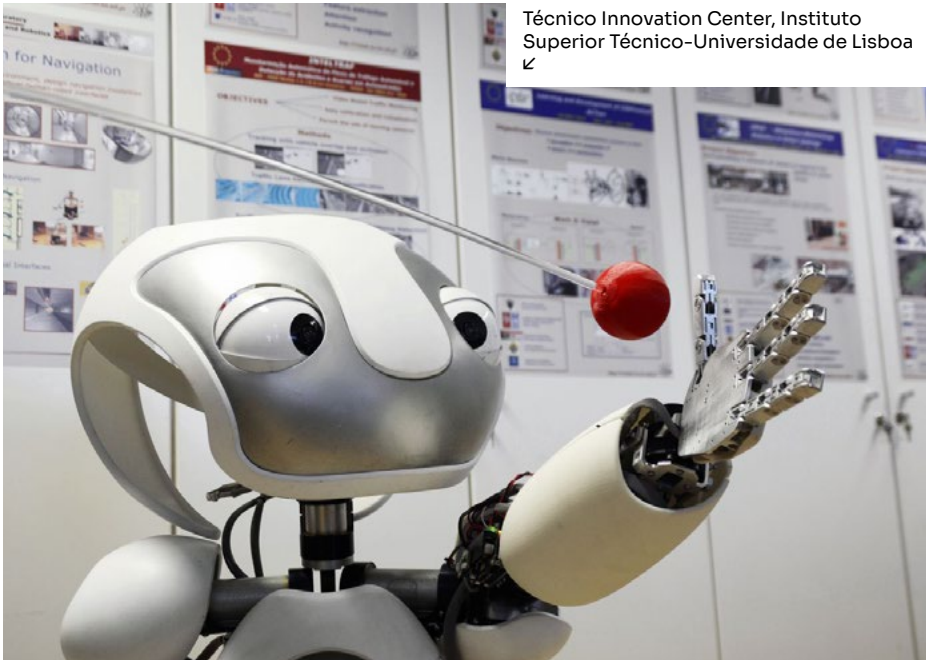
→ The Magalhães Network: The view of the founding fathers



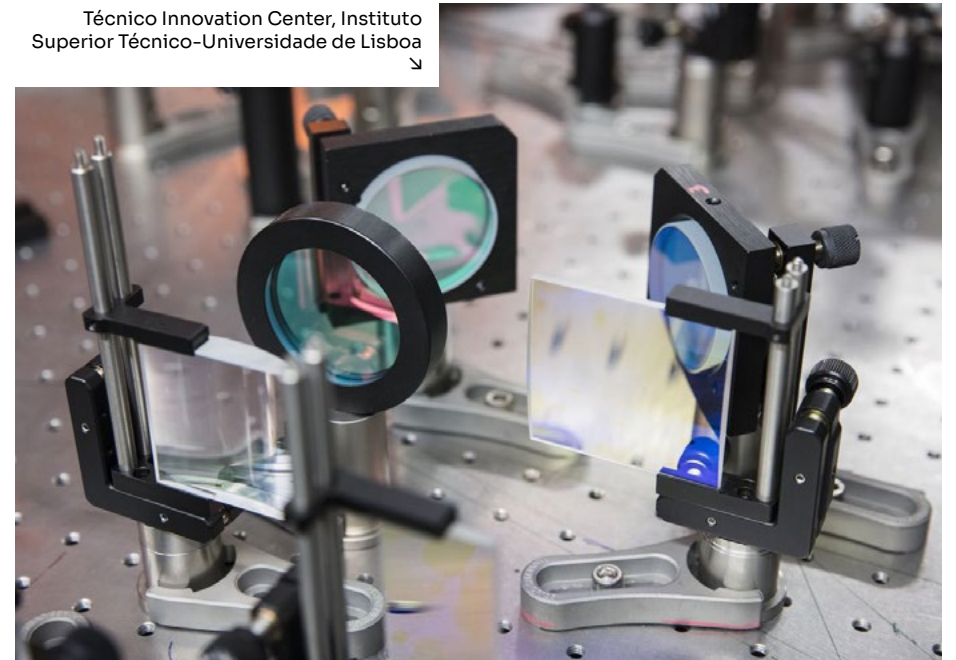
↖
Técnico Innovation Center, Instituto
Superior Técnico-Universidade de Lisboa



↗
Técnico Innovation Center, Instituto
Superior Técnico-Universidade de Lisboa



Técnico Innovation Center, Instituto
Superior Técnico-Universidade de Lisboa
↙



Técnico Innovation Center, Instituto
Superior Técnico-Universidade de Lisboa
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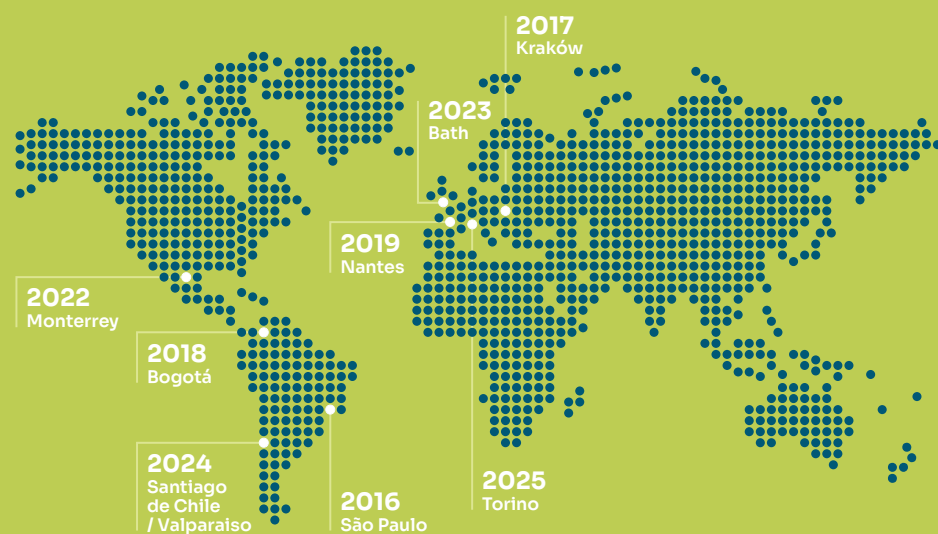
The Engineering Campus is the main complex of Politecnico di Torino, dedicated to Engineering disciplines. It serves as a hub for education, research, and technology transfer, and continues to grow with new buildings and infrastructure as part of an ongoing development plan. Photo: © Michele D'Ottavio



List of the General Assembly Venues



The General Assembly is the decision-making body of the Magalhães Network. It also serves as an opportunity to strengthen **intercontinental partnerships**, share best practices, and promote joint initiatives in higher education and research. The General Assembly **meets once a year**, with the venue alternating **between the two continents**.



LAC	EU	online
2016 2018 2022 2024	2017 2019 2023 2025	2020 2021

2016

São Paulo, Brazil
(Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho")



2017

Kraków, Poland
(AGH University of Krakow)



2018

Bogotá, Colombia
(Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Universidad de los Andes)



2019

Nantes, France
(École Centrale de Nantes)



2020/21

(online events)

2022

Monterrey, Mexico
(Tecnológico de Monterrey)

2023

Bath, UK
(University of Bath)

2024

Santiago de Chile and Valparaíso, Chile
(Pontificia Universidad de Chile, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, and Universidad de Chile)

2025

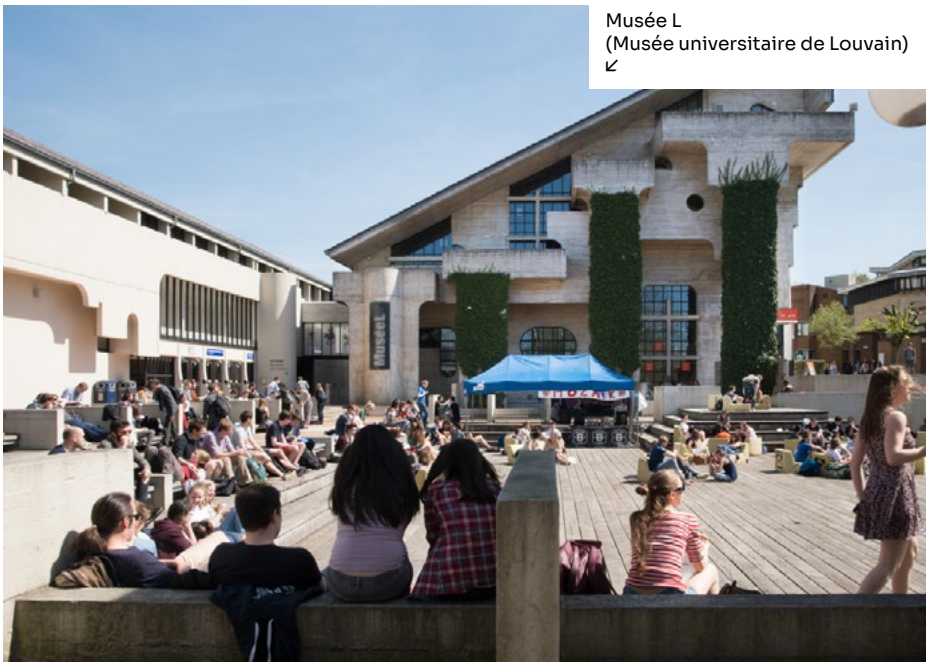
Torino, Italy
(Politecnico di Torino)



↖ Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), global view



↗ Défi Structure, 2023 (UCLouvain)

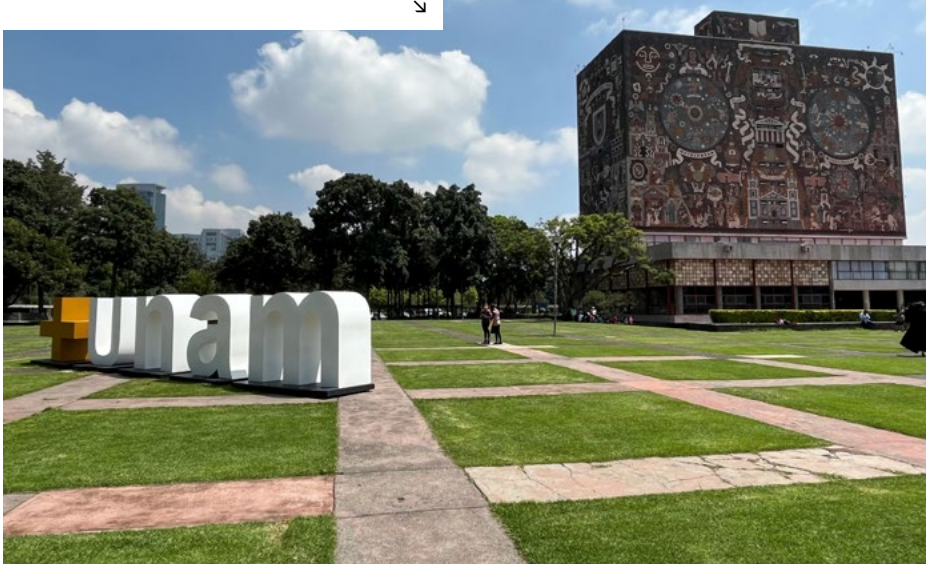


↖ Musée L (Musée universitaire de Louvain)



↘ Défi Structure, 2023 (UCLouvain)
Photo: © Aurore Delsoir

Biblioteca Central. Ciudad Universitaria, Ciudad de México. Mural de Juan O' Gorman hecho con mosaicos de piedras de colores.
Foto: © Ximena Gómez



Unidad de Posgrado. Ciudad Universitaria, Ciudad de México.
Foto: © Ximena Gómez



Torre de Rectoría. Ciudad Universitaria, Ciudad de México. Mural de David Alfaro Siqueiros.
Foto: © Ángel Llera



List of Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Steering Committee members



PRESIDENTS

2006–2010

1st presidency



José Manuel Páez Borrallo
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

2011–2014

2nd presidency



Adnei Melges de Andrade
Universidade de São Paulo

2015–2018

3rd presidency



Per Warfvinge
Lund University

2019–2022

4th presidency



Silvia Caro
Universidad de los Andes

2023–2026

5th presidency



Roberto Zanino
Politecnico di Torino

VICE-PRESIDENTS

[2007–2009]

Adnei Melges de Andrade

Universidade de São Paulo

[2010]

Ericksson Rocha e Almendra

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

[2011–2014]

Per Warfvinge

Lund University

[2015]

Enrique Durán Páramo

Instituto Politecnico Nacional

[2016]

Jorge Luis Sánchez Téllez

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

[2017]

Carlos Francisco Rodríguez Herrera

Universidad de los Andes

[2018]

Silvia Caro

Universidad de los Andes

[2023–2026]

Luis Vargas

Universidad de Chile

→
List of the Steering
Committee members

Steering Committee members



LA&C SC MEMBERS

2006–2010

1st presidency

[2006–2008]

Carmen Caleyá

Universidad Simón Bolívar

[2007]

Universidade de São Paulo

[2008–2009]

Pontificia Universidad
Católica de Chile

[2009–2010]

Pontificia Universidad
Javeriana

[2010–2011]

Instituto Tecnológico
de Buenos Aires

2011–2014

2nd presidency

[2010–2011]

Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires

[2011–2012]

Jaime R. Jaén

Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá

[2012]

Luis Peirano

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

[2013–2015]

Rocio F. Duque Santa María

Universidad de Chile

[2013]

Víctor Sánchez Urrutia

Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá

[2014]

Enrique Durán Páramo

Instituto Politécnico Nacional

2015–2018

3rd presidency

[2013–2015]

**Rocio F. Duque
Santa María**

Universidad de Chile

[2015–2016]

Marcela TorinoInstituto Tecnológico
de Buenos Aires

[2016–2017]

Raul Machado Neto

Universidade de São Paulo

[2017–2018]

Viviana Ruiz Peredes

Universidad de Chile

[2018–2019]

Eugenia CannataInstituto Tecnológico
de Buenos Aires

2019–2022

4th presidency

[2019–2020]

Viviana Ruiz Peredes

Universidad de Chile

[2020–2021]

Eugenia CannataInstituto Tecnológico
de Buenos Aires

[2021–2022]

Aris CastilloUniversidad Tecnológica
de Panamá

[2022–2023]

José Manuel Paéz

Tec Monterrey

2023–2026

5th presidency

[2022–2023]

José Manuel Paéz

Tec Monterrey

[2023–2026]

Lope BarreroPontificia Universidad
Javeriana

[2024–2025]

Marcio Lobo NettoUniversidade
de São Paulo

EU SC MEMBERS

[2006–2007]

Per Hagander

Lund University

[2006–2008]

Mirko Varano

Politecnico di Torino

[2008–2009]

Helsinki University of
Technology

[2009–2010]

Instituto Superior Técnico

[2010–2011]

Université Catholique
de Louvain

[2010–2011]

Université Catholique de Louvain

[2011–2012]

Giancarlo Spinelli

Politecnico di Milano

[2012–2013]

Mirko Varano

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

[2013–2014]

Pedro Díez

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

[2014–2015]

Josef Kolar

Czech Technical University

[2014–2015]

Josef Kolar

Czech Technical University

[2015–2016]

Fouad Bennis

Ecole Centrale de Nantes

[2016–2017]

Vanessa Grünhagen

Technical University of Munich

[2017–2018]

Rui MendesInstituto Superior
Técnico, Lisboa

[2018–2019]

Alberto AlmendraUniversidad Politécnica
de Madrid

[2019–2020]

Rui MendesInstituto Superior
Técnico, Lisboa

[2020–2021]

Alberto AlmendraUniversidad Politécnica
de Madrid

[2021–2022]

Mirko VaranoKTH Royal Institute
of Technology

[2022–2023]

Paul Shepherd

University of Bath

[2023–2024]

Mirko VaranoKTH Royal Institute
of Technology

[2024–2025]

Paul Shepherd

University of Bath

[2025–2026]

Rui MendesInstituto Superior
Técnico, Lisboa

The role of Magalhães in fostering Mobility between Europe and LAC

Rui Mendes

Director of International Affairs
Instituto Superior Técnico – Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

A Rede Magalhães foi criada há 20 anos com o objetivo de gerar sinergias no ensino superior, particularmente nas áreas de engenharia, arquitetura e tecnologia, promovendo a mobilidade de estudantes entre os dois continentes, inspirada no modelo do programa Erasmus, ainda que sem comparticipação financeira.

A relação histórica privilegiada entre os dois continentes tornou-se particularmente relevante para a construção do programa de mobilidade SMILE, que outorgou inicialmente o castelhano como língua predominante. Com 20 parceiros cuja língua principal do país é o castelhano e 5 parceiros falantes de língua portuguesa, existem outros 15 que permitem introduzir uma heterogeneidade na composição da rede que absorve a diversidade pretendida para um programa de mobilidade, seja na língua, nos costumes ou nas formas de organização. São 12 línguas diferentes com múltiplas idiosincrasias para os estudantes partirem à descoberta.

Eduardo Galeano, pensador uruguaio, refletiu sobre a essência do ser humano no Livro dos Abraços (1989):
“Los científicos dicen que estamos hechos de átomos, pero a mí un pajarito me contó que estamos hechos de historias.”

Pablo Neruda, escritor chileno, na sua obra Canto General (1950), alvitrou sobre as expectativas de uma experiência:
“Podemos todos juntos, aunque estemos separados, levantar la tierra, repartir el pan, multiplicar los sueños.”

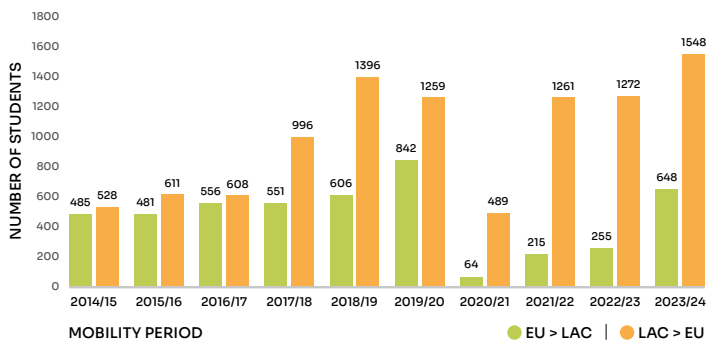


↖
Rui Mendes,
Instituto Superior Técnico –
Universidade de Lisboa

Rui Mendes

Instituto Superior Técnico – Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

Contudo, o crescimento do número de estudantes, o alargamento do número de membros a outros países europeus, na América Latina e no Caribe, alargou o seu impacto, resultando que, com os dados referentes ao último ano disponível, 2023/24, um número outrora inimaginável de mais de 2200 estudantes cruzou o oceano atlântico em busca da sua experiência intercultural e académica, fosse através de acordos SMILE, ou outros interinstitucionais como detalhado na Figura 1.



↗ [1] Mobilidade de estudantes entre universidades LAC e UE da Rede Magalhães

Agreements with the other side of the Atlantic

SMILE EU-LatAm: 109
LatAm-EU: 100

Exchange EU-LatAm: 139
LatAm-EU: 129

Double Degree EU-LatAm: 35
LatAm-EU: 40

Agreements within the same continent

SMILE LatAm: 57

Exchange EU: 249
LatAm: 127

Double Degree EU: 65
LatAm: 8

↗ [2] Acordos entre as universidades da América Latina e Caribe (LAC) e da União Europeia (UE) na rede Magalhães

Rui Mendes

Instituto Superior Técnico – Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

O número de alunos cresceu, mas também a diversidade de opções, justificando que esta diversidade e multiculturalidade resulte em 2023/24 em mais de 500 acordos entre os dois continentes como indicado na Figura 2.

Para além dos acordos SMILE — estruturados de forma específica e fruto de muitos anos de investimento na sua consolidação — outros acordos de mobilidade, bem como programas de duplo grau/titulação, vieram criar condições para a mobilidade e reforçar a qualidade do suporte institucional assegurado por cada um dos membros.

Passados 20 anos há muitas histórias para contar, existem experiências que ficam para a vida, há uma metamorfose simbiótica que emite uma ressonância inspiradora para todos os que se vão seguir. Porque a história não acaba aqui, a viagem simplesmente agora começou...

Mais do que um programa de mobilidade, o SMILE evoca sorrisos por todos quanto o experienciaram, incide diretamente ao coração de todos quanto participam na sua organização e representa o que de melhor existe no coração da cooperação internacional: a afirmação da internacionalização do ensino superior para a paz entre os povos, a prosperidade na educação e a capacidade de inovação em diferentes contextos.

Educação é mudar o mundo, citando **Nelson Mandela** no seu discurso em Madiso Park High School, Boston (1989):
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

A abertura de espírito, o impacto de viajar e capacidade de colocar na agenda a tolerância entre os povos foi bem exemplificada há quase 150 anos por **Mark Twain** na sua obra *The Innocents Abroad* (1869):
“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.”

Successful Projects



↘ i-mat.eu



I-MAT Project — Innovative Mobility Attracting Tools for Latin America

I-MAT is an Erasmus+ project launched in 2023, with an expected duration of three years, involving 9 higher education institutions (HEIs) from 6 countries: Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Lithuania, Poland, and Portugal, the vast majority of which belong to the Magalhães Network. The project aims to identify the needs and priorities of Latin American HEIs (in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru) and align them with the priorities and relevant expertise of HEIs from programme countries (in Lithuania, Poland, and Portugal). The objective is to maximize the benefits for these countries and partner institutions, with the support of the European Commission.

The I-MAT project seeks to bring together the main European stakeholders responsible for international mobility and cooperation, in order to better understand the challenges faced by three Latin American countries in attracting students as well as academic and non-academic staff to mobility initiatives — challenges that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project aims to identify and adapt best practices used by European higher education institutions, with a focus on digital and innovative approaches, to support Latin American partners in overcoming these difficulties. In addition, the project will develop concrete recommendations and best practices for those involved in mobility, culminating in the creation and implementation of a training framework designed to strengthen the capacity of Latin American institutions to attract target groups for international mobility experiences.

Successful Projects



↘ ela4attract.com



ELA4ATTRACT Project — Empower LA HE for Inclusion and STEM Attraction

The ELA4ATTRACT Project – Empower Latin American Higher Education for Inclusion and STEM Attraction – is an initiative funded by the Erasmus+ programme (Key Action 2 – Capacity Building in Higher Education). It started in January 2024 and is set to run for three years. Coordinated by Instituto Superior Técnico (Técnico Lisboa), it involves 12 partners, 10 of which are members of the Magalhães Network. The project aims to promote inclusive practices to attract and retain students, especially women, in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), while also addressing historical and systemic barriers that affect underrepresented groups such as low-income students, ethnic minorities, and rural communities.

↘ wpa.tecnico.ulisboa.pt



World Pendulum Alliance Project (WP@ELAB)

The World Pendulum Alliance (WP@ELAB) is an international initiative coordinated by Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) and co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme. The original consortium was composed of 14 partners, 9 of which belonged to the Magalhães Network, and was launched in 2018. Its main goal was to improve the quality of science and mathematics education by creating a global network of high-precision pendulums, remotely accessible via the internet. These pendulums allow the measurement of gravitational acceleration at different latitudes, thereby promoting experimental learning and scientific literacy across diverse educational contexts.

Testimonial of a Politecnico di Torino PhD student in long mobility stay at Universidad de Chile

Leonardo Baldo ↘

When I first heard about the possibility of spending several months in South America in the context of my PhD exchange program, in a completely different academic and cultural environment, I was immediately fascinated. The chance to join the research group of Prof. Marcos Orchard at Universidad de Chile was not only a professional opportunity, but also a personal challenge: to step far away from what I already knew, and to discover something entirely new.

During my seven-month stay I had the privilege to contribute to several research lines in the field of Prognostics and Health Management (PHM). While in Turin my PhD is focused on Condition-Based Maintenance for aerospace applications, in Santiago I was able to broaden my scope, exploring different perspectives and approaches within PHM. The stimulating environment, characterized by multidisciplinary discussions and openness to new ideas, significantly enriched my research outlook.

Beyond academia, this experience had a profound human impact. Living in Santiago, learning Spanish, and sharing everyday life with colleagues and friends from another culture helped me build resilience, adaptability, and a truly international vision of my future career. I also had the chance to travel extensively across South America, discovering places that most people only see on postcards, making the stay even more unique and unforgettable.

Looking back, this experience was much more than a mobility period: it was a transformative journey that strengthened both my technical skills and my personal outlook. Most importantly, it opened new lines of research that will bring results in the coming years, further strengthening the relations between Politecnico di Torino and Universidad de Chile. I am deeply grateful to the program, to Politecnico di Torino, and to Universidad de Chile for making this possible.



↖
Leonardo Baldo,
Politecnico di Torino
PhD student



☞ Magalhães General Assembly, Bath, 2023: Tracey Stenson Jukes, Sibylle Langer

From exchange to impact: the projects that help the Magalhães Network grow

Lope Hugo Barrero

Former Dean of the Engineering School
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)

Twenty years ago, a group of visionaries imagined that it was both possible and necessary to establish a platform – with a certain degree of formality – to foster collaboration between universities in Latin America and Europe. The vision was clear, and the potential was immense. The goodwill – the first step in any joint endeavor – was already there, as evidenced by the analyses of texts and testimonies collected for this anniversary of the Network.

However, a clear vision and committed will are not enough. It was necessary to put concrete mechanisms in motion, to harmonize ways of operating, academic calendars, and, above all, to build trust. The Network, as many of us understood, did not start from zero. Some relationships between universities already existed, but the intention was to go beyond bilateral ties – mainly focused on student and faculty exchanges – and create new multilateral possibilities for cooperation.

Connections in the field of research have also been relevant, as indicated by the volume of scientific output co-authored by members of the Network. Yet a critical lens compels us to acknowledge that the Network has likely been a contributing factor – a necessary but not sufficient condition – for many of the links we now see in that area.

Among the many dimensions of the Network, the chance to interact through **capacity-building projects** has followed what we might call a “spontaneous” dynamic – and this is worth highlighting. Beyond the five projects that have been funded and the dozen proposals submitted in the last call, what truly matters are the dynamics that made these results possible and the strengthening of the Network that came as a consequence.



Lope Hugo Barrero,
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana



Santiago de Chile, 2024:
ELA4ATTRACT project meeting

Lope H. Barrero

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)

The behavior of a sociotechnical system can be analyzed in many ways. Counting how many new nodes connect, and the intensity and quality of their interactions, often provides insight that goes beyond final outputs. A full count of such connections and their characterization is beyond the scope of this contribution. I can say, however, that these interactions reveal deep learning processes that are difficult to capture using standard metrics. Experiencing the construction and development of various projects, a clear picture emerges: a typical capacity-building project is both a product of the Network and a breeding ground for new ideas and initiatives.

To illustrate this – and at the risk of sounding too anecdotal – I’d like to refer to the ELA4ATTRACT project, which I know well, and which is currently underway. This project, funded by the European Commission, seeks to develop effective mechanisms to attract more women and other underrepresented groups into STEM fields. It includes four European universities: Universidade de Lisboa, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya and Universität Stuttgart, and eight Latin American universities—Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Universidad de los Andes, Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC), Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and Universidad de Chile — most of which are members of the Network.

How does a project like this emerge? Today, the Network has simple yet powerful and inclusive mechanisms that allow universities to propose ideas, refine them collectively, and carry them forward within established deadlines. There are no rigid constraints – just a genuine interest in participating.

→ From exchange to impact: the projects that help the Magalhães Network grow

Lope H. Barrero

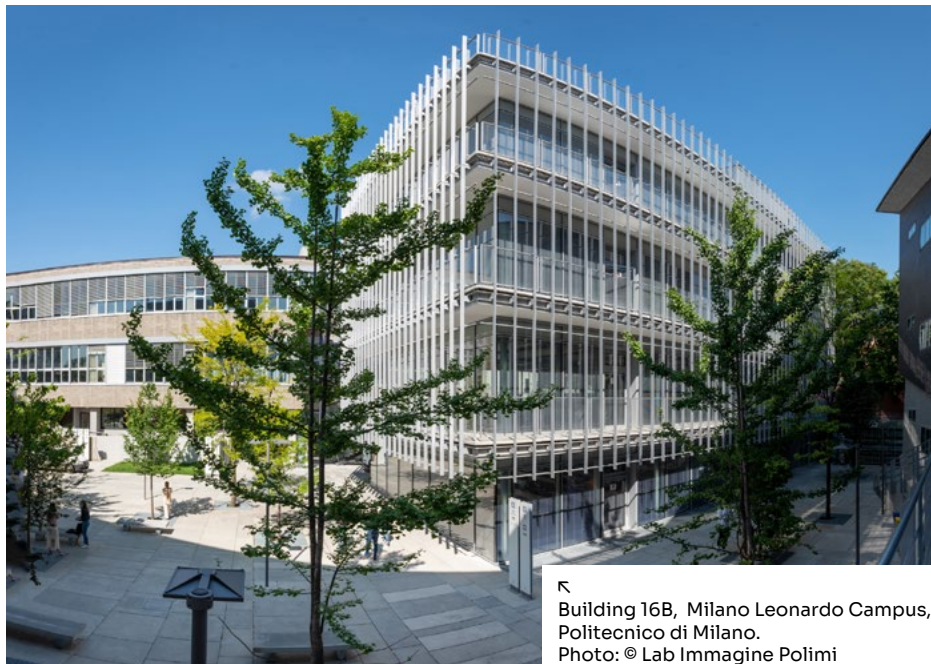
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)

And how do we learn? Carrying out this kind of project involves regular meetings to plan, share feedback, and make adjustments — nothing unusual for a collaborative effort. What is special here is that the technical teams that form among faculty and administrative staff – often beyond the official representatives of the Network – create a living fabric that gives the Network its true strength. One witnesses how new ideas arise, practices are shared, and peer invitations emerge. While the Network formally meets once a year, these projects generate 8 to 14 meetings annually, many of them in person. And although all sorts of challenges arise – stemming from the interaction between different organizational cultures and timelines – the outcomes include invaluable learning, both in process and substance.

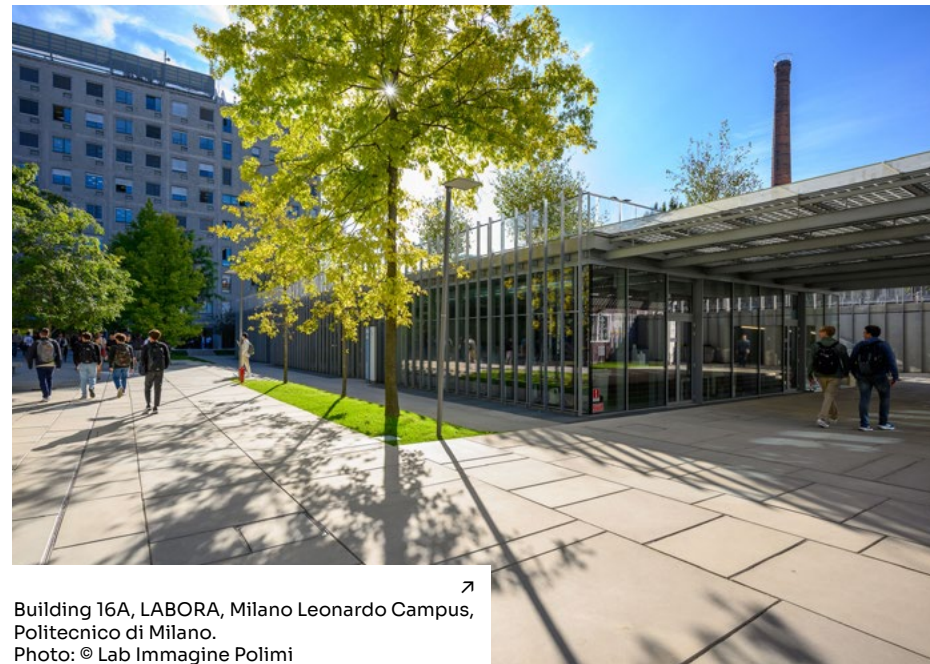
What comes next? The Network’s Presidency and Steering Committee have expressed strong interest in promoting direct collaborations between researchers on topics of shared importance: energy for a sustainable future, climate change, and digital development. This could shape a meaningful agenda for the next decade, with a unique and compelling angle: two continents, with diverse development paths, joining forces to imagine, from the fields of engineering and architecture, a better society.

The next small yet significant step is to build more joint projects. The dynamics of our Network will continue to evolve, driven by the momentum we’ve already gained and by the sustained efforts of those who believe that we are stronger together. I can only look to the future with optimism.

→ From exchange to impact: the projects that help the Magalhães Network grow



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Building 16B, Milano Leonardo Campus,
Politecnico di Milano.
Photo: © Lab Immagine Polimi



↗
Building 16A, LABORA, Milano Leonardo Campus,
Politecnico di Milano.
Photo: © Lab Immagine Polimi



Building 1, Rectorate, Milano Leonardo
Campus, Politecnico di Milano.
Photo: © Lab Immagine Polimi
↖



Building B30, Collina degli studenti,
Milano Bovisa Campus, Politecnico di Milano.
Photo: © Lab Immagine Polimi
↘

Visit of the President, Roberto Zanino,
to the UBA Engineering Faculty, 2023 ↘



Visit of the President to UBA: 1st from the left, Sebastian
Civallero, Secretario Ciencia y Tecnica; 4th from the left,
Alejandro Martinez, Dean of the Engineering Faculty ↗



Visit of the Steering Committee to UDELAR
(Universidad de la República Uruguay):
Alvaro Mombrú (Vicerector), Roberto Zanino ↗



New directions in the Magalhães Network: PhD Mobility and R&I Cooperation

Paul Shepherd

Co-Director of The Foundry: Centre for Digital Manufacturing & Design research, University of Bath (UK)

–

Marcio Lobo Netto

President of the International Relations Committee, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)

With the Magalhães Network turning 20 years old, now is a perfect time to reflect on how we can build on its successes to drive the Network forward through the next 20 years. Among opportunities to broaden out the range of promoted activities two popped up: extending the offered exchanges to include PhD students and stimulating R&I cooperation among partners.

Over the years, a number of initiatives were trialled to explore synergies in research across our membership under the “MENTE” banner – Magalhães Enhancing New Topics in Engineering. The first MENTE session, hosted by Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru in 2014, focused on Aerospace research, and this was followed up by a MENTE session on Materials research hosted by AGH University of Krakow in 2017. However, the understandably narrow focus of individual professors’ research interests has made it a challenge to identify key topics that overlap with a critical mass of our members. To address this, over the past few years the Magalhães Steering Committee have carried out some data analytics work, using publications databases to quantify existing research collaborations between member universities, and to identify research fields of common interest, particularly those which span the Atlantic. This involved lobbying SciVal, the globally recognised leader in publications metrics, who now recognise the Magalhães Network as an organisation within their database, which raises our visibility globally and makes data analytics easier.



Marcio Lobo Netto,
Universidade de São Paulo



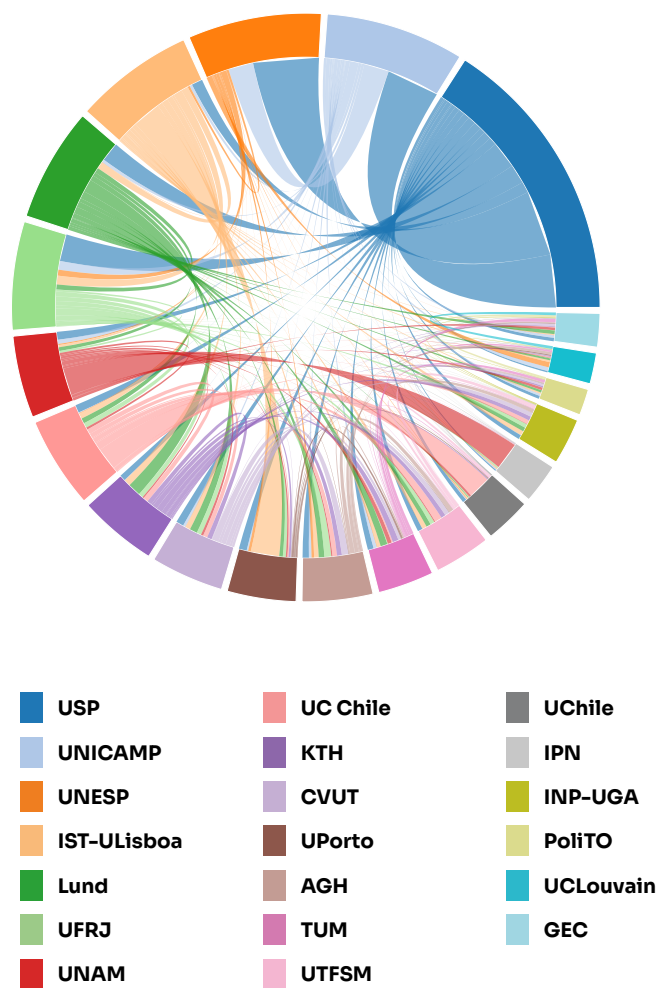
Magalhães General Assembly,
Bath, 2023: Paul Shepherd

Paul Shepherd, Marcio Lobo Netto

University of Bath (UK), Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)

Joint Publications—Top 20 Institutions.

The figure illustrates a partial view of the collaboration among Magalhães members (20 out of 40 universities).



→ New directions in the Magalhães Network: PhD Mobility and R&I Cooperation

Paul Shepherd, Marcio Lobo Netto

University of Bath (UK), Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)

The consequence of this work was the realization that we need both a bottom-up and top-down approach to expanding the activities, which conducted to the creation of two new initiatives, each led by a member of the Magalhães Network Steering Committee.

The bottom-up approach, led by Paul Shepherd of the University of Bath, UK, focuses on increasing Researcher Mobility, particularly PhD students, by identifying synergies first, and then identifying ways to translate them into mobility. We are in the process of setting up an on-line bulletin-board like space, where PhD students can identify research groups amongst Magalhães members on the other side of the Atlantic who welcome incoming PhD visitors, in a similar way to how our Bachelor and Master students take part in mobility exchanges during their studies. We are also leading a bid for funding under the Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Mobility Programme, focused on “Cognisant Realtime Urban Cities and Infrastructure for mobility within Latin-america and Europe (CRUCIBLE)”. The topic was chosen after a series of meetings with researchers from member universities to narrow down the broad range of common research interests. If successful, the funding will pay for research staff mobility (everyone from PhD students and PostDocs up to full professors) to engage in workshops and research collaborations across the Atlantic. This is the first attempt at a research-focused funding bid, and lessons learned will feed into future opportunities in other research fields.

The top-down initiative, focused on first identifying the most appealing research subjects for the majority of members and compatible funding opportunities, and then building a consortium from amongst Network members, is being led by Marcio Lobo Netto of Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. The action started by gathering R&I Vice Rectors names among Magalhães partners, considering that these are the people in the best conditions to show the research directions considered as the most relevant by their institutions.

→ New directions in the Magalhães Network: PhD Mobility and R&I Cooperation

Paul Shepherd, Marcio Lobo Netto

University of Bath (UK), Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)

Two webinars were conducted in 2024 involving a representative from most partners, which allowed us to map the three most appealing subjects (Energy Transition, Sustainability and Digital Transformation), which were used to search for funding opportunities. Assessment of different calls, based on their openness to include European, Latin American and Caribbean Universities, led to the HORIZON program for Civil Security for Society, being selected as the first target programme, specifically a call titled “Open topic on improving disaster risk management and governance to ensure self-sufficiency and sustainability of operations in support of enhanced resilience”. A call for participation was sent to R&I panel members, whose answers guided the elaboration of a joint proposal, the first of what we hope will be many such endeavours.

In combination, these initiatives aim to build on our established trust and sense of community, to foster strong research and innovation partnerships amongst our members, which will no doubt help to further strengthen our student mobility in return.

→ New directions in the Magalhães Network: PhD Mobility and R&I Cooperation



Magalhães General Assembly, Nantes, 2019



⌂ Magalhães General Assembly, Bath, 2023

The Distrito Tecnológico Campus of ITBA (Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires) can be defined as a modern, strategic, and innovative extension of the university, located in the heart of the Technological District of the City of Buenos Aires.



Magalhães General Assembly, Monterrey, 2022



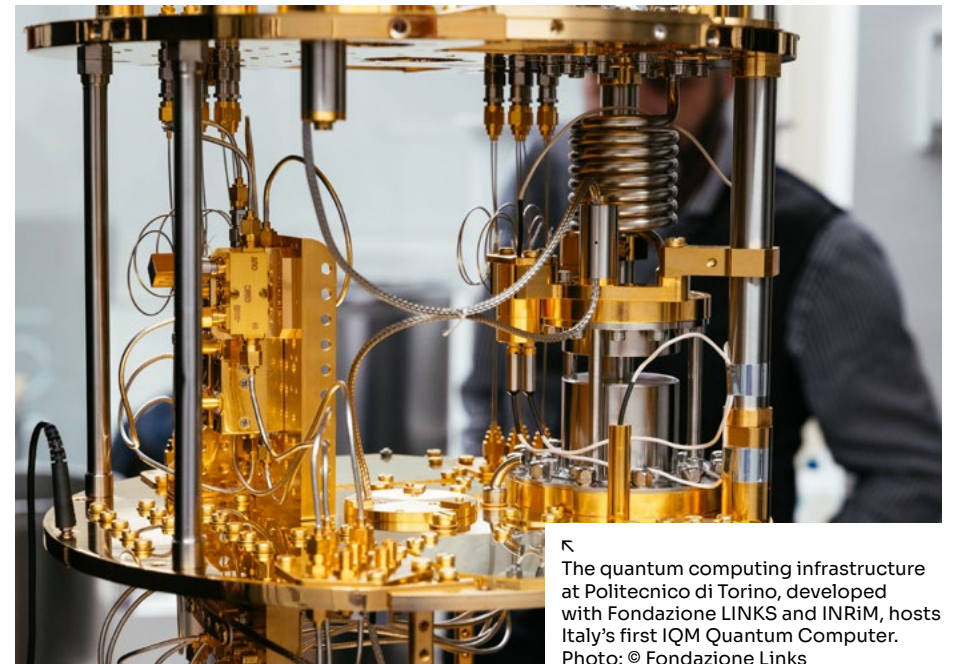
The new 12,000-square-meter Politecnico di Torino "Spina della Didattica" (scheduled for completion in 2029) will strengthen experiential learning through environments designed for both individual and group study. Emphasizing interactivity, collaboration, and inclusivity, these spaces will shape a distinctive and engaging educational model. Photo: © Masterplan PoliTO



The Student Teams at the Politecnico di Torino have access to a dedicated space of over 1000 square meters inside Toolbox Coworking in Turin. This environment fosters collaboration, creativity, and prototyping, offering teams a place to develop projects and experiment with innovative solutions. Photo: © Toolbox Coworking



The joint research infrastructure of Politecnico di Torino and Environment Park is a hub for advanced research on ecological and energy transitions, combining specialized laboratories for hydrogen technologies, CO₂ cycle management, and electrochemical energy conversion, and fostering collaboration between academia and industry. Photo: © Felice Balzano



The quantum computing infrastructure at Politecnico di Torino, developed with Fondazione LINKS and INRiM, hosts Italy's first IQM Quantum Computer. Photo: © Fondazione Links



Internationalization as seen from the two sides of the Atlantic: Different points of view, similar objectives

Mirko Varano

Vice-Rector for International Affairs,
Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)

The Magalhães Network was established to bridge the gap left by the EU's "Alfa" Programme, the only funding tool directly addressing academic collaboration between the EU and the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It also aimed to capitalize on momentum from the ALCUE initiative, whose higher education chapter was only established in 2000, triggered by the philosophy promoted by Magalhães itself.

Internationalization of LAC and European universities has followed very different trajectories. Internationalization has been a widespread, institutionalized process in Europe since the early 1980s and has been supported by institutions and national policies. In LAC, internationalization is more recent, unevenly supported, and affected by structural restrictions, and in many cases, it has been reactive to external pressure. This makes for a dramatic asymmetry of rationale, resources, frameworks, and activity between the two regions.

LAC universities have embraced a vision of "humanistic internationalization" centered on solidarity, intercultural understanding, and cooperation based on mutual respect. This vision withstands the prevailing tides of globalization (transnational education, capacity building, ...) and aims to preserve the public mission of higher education. It hopes to advance cooperation among equals, supporting cooperation based on common values.

While ALCUE sets out to establish a shared space for science, technology, and education, the foremost hurdle is the lack of regional integration in LAC's higher education systems - often disjointed even at the national level.



↖
Magalhães General Assembly,
Nantes, 2019: Mirko Varano

Mirko Varano

Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)

LAC lacks an equivalent to the EU's integrated initiatives like the ECTS credit system, ENQA quality framework, Diploma Supplement, or the European University Initiative, in contrast to the achievements of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). However, programmes such as the LAC regional diploma recognition arrangement are positive moves towards closing this gap.

A second critical challenge faced is brain drain. LAC ranks second globally in citizens with a university education being emigrated (7.4%), following Africa (10.8%). At the same time, mobility of international students within the LAC region is low (5.2%), and the region attracts only 2.2% of the world's exchange students. Brain drain is considered by LAC institutions to be the greatest threat to internationalization, unlike globally where commercialization of education stands out as the foremost perceived threat. Academic colonization and unfair partnerships are prevalent reasons for hesitancy in cooperative partnerships with European institutions.

This is heightened by the strong inequalities of the region. LAC is the most unequal region in the world in socio-economic terms, and universities there list "inequality between partners" and "benefits to a privileged academic elite" as principal risks, whereas regulatory risks of foreign programs are of higher concern in their counterparts worldwide.

Financing is a principal issue. More than half of LAC institutions list "lack of financing" as the greatest internal barrier to internationalization, aligned with international trends. However, language is a particularly important issue in the area, since foreign language proficiency is low among both students and teachers. In addition, 38% of the LAC institutions cite the absence of national policies as the primary external barrier.

→ Internationalization as seen from the two sides of the Atlantic

Mirko Varano

Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)

Student mobility into LAC is extremely low, at 0.22% in Colombia and 3.1% in Argentina, which tops the ranks in the region. Europe, on the other hand ranges from 9–14%, with the UK reaching 21.5%.

There is also a divergence in the desire to internationalize. While the majority of LAC countries agree on objectives like expanding capacity, improving quality, improving country reputation, and promoting economic development, priority items like global citizenship, addressing global issues, or using education for diplomacy differ widely across countries. For example, Brazil and Cuba give high priority to global issues and national interest, but not countries like Colombia and Argentina. In Europe, on the other hand, such values are dominant and ranked top.

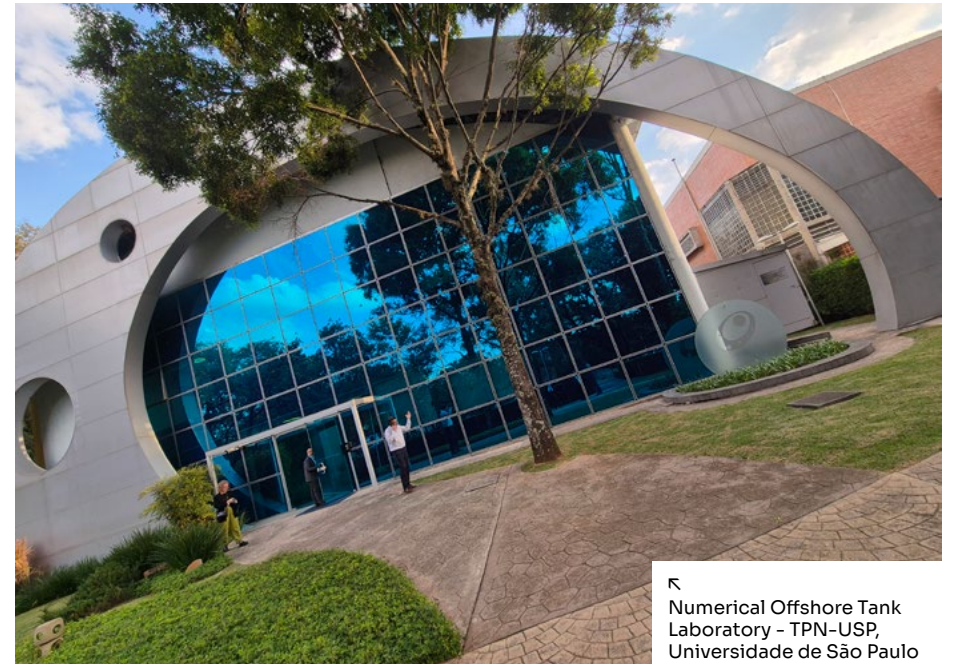
Such motivational diversity, combined with limited resources and unbalanced outcomes of the internationalization process in the two regions, serves to highlight the structural disequilibrium between LAC and Europe. Far from viewing these divergences as obstacles, we should instead view them as opportunities. A coherent, inclusive, and bi-regional strategy sensitive to the various rationale, capacities, and expectations can foster mutual benefits and a more balanced pattern of internationalization.

In this context, the Magalhães Network's success, even without formal funding and solely relying on institutional commitment and personal initiative, is a testament to the strength of long-term values-oriented collaboration within higher education between Europe and LAC.

→ Internationalization as seen from the two sides of the Atlantic



↵ Magalhães General Assembly, Bath, 2023



↵ Numerical Offshore Tank Laboratory - TPN-USP, Universidade de São Paulo



TPN-USP Ship Maneuvering Simulation Center, Universidade de São Paulo
↵



Reflections on my presidency of the Magalhães Network, 2018–2022

Silvia Caro / former President of the Magalhães Network
Vicepresident for Academic Affairs
Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)

During the 2018 Magalhães Annual Meeting that was held in Bogotá, Colombia, and hosted by Universidad de los Andes (Uniandes) and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (PUJ), I was appointed as the new President of the Network. At the time, I was serving as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the School of Engineering at Uniandes and, as part of my responsibilities, I was leading our internationalization strategy. These were exciting times, as I was learning at a rapid pace about the value of international cooperation in attaining the goals of our School.

The Network had been steadily connecting Schools of Engineering and Architecture in universities from Latin America and Europe, creating valuable opportunities for student exchange, collaboration, and dialogue. With the support of the members of the Follow-Up Committee, as the Steering Committee used to be called back then, the initial period of the presidency was mainly focused on continuity: maintaining strong institutional ties, promoting ongoing student mobility programs, encouraging peer exchange, and exploring new collaboration opportunities.

Shortly after, the global context shifted dramatically in 2020. The pandemic challenged us to rethink our ways of working, connecting, teaching, doing research, and collaborating. We, at the Magalhães Network, were able to respond quickly. Even as physical travel became impossible, we created spaces to share concerns, good practices, and strategies. These were not only technical exchanges but conversations among our members that reminded us of the value of partnership and of staying connected in uncertain times. We did all this through additional meetings, webinars, and other spaces, while our international mobility offices worked hard to offer virtual exchange possibilities to a broader group of students, many of whom may never have had the chance to travel abroad to participate in meaningful international learning experiences.



⌂
Magalhães General Assembly,
Nantes, 2019: Silvia Caro

Silvia Caro

Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)

This showed us that there are other powerful alternatives from traditional physical mobility, through which we can help develop intercultural and global competences in our students. These new possibilities are more affordable to many of our students, especially to those in Latin America and to minorities in Europe who struggle with the financial support to cover travel expenses, and, as such, they offer novel and unexplored initiatives to democratize academic internationalization. One of the most interesting initiatives that emerged during this period was the design and implementation of a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) among multiple partner institutions. Led by Prof. Luis Vargas from Universidad de Chile, the course “Rural Hydro-Energy Challenges in Latin America” was designed jointly by faculty members from Universidad de Chile, Universidad de los Andes, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, and Instituto Politécnico Nacional, and it was offered for virtual exchange to students of Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and University of Stuttgart. We had two editions of this virtual course, opening the opportunity to students to collaborate across borders, disciplines, and languages. This experience confirmed the need to experiment new paths of internationalization in the context of a connected world: more flexible, more inclusive, and probably more adaptable to the needs of the Global South.

The Follow-Up Committee played a central role during this journey. Their dedication and commitment, and their willingness to adapt, were essential in steering the Network during this period. Together, we improved the internal structure of the Network, promoted more consistent communication, and facilitated shared leadership. Among other achievements, we renewed and restructured the Magalhães website and organized frequent meetings, both virtual and hybrid, to ensure that decisions were inclusive and informed.

→ Reflections on my presidency of the Magalhães Network, 2018–2022

Silvia Caro

Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)

During this term, we held four General Assembly (GA) meetings, three of which had to be shifted to a fully virtual format due to the pandemic. I would like to send a note of appreciation to the École Centrale de Nantes and TEC de Monterrey for being such wonderful hosts in the two on-site GA meetings in 2018 and 2022, respectively.

The vision that originally shaped Magalhães, as a bridge between academia in Europe and Latin America, remains as relevant as ever. However, over the years I also witnessed that the Network was helping to strengthen new bridges within Latin America. Unlike European universities, our region lacks formal programs that promote collaboration among universities. Magalhães helped fill that gap. Our platform offered opportunities for Latin American universities to connect and strengthen regional cooperation. From my point of view, this has been a collateral benefit that the Network should continue to protect and promote.

Looking back, I believe the meaning of our Network lies in its ability to sustain trust and collaboration over time, particularly in a rapidly changing global environment. Higher education today faces many uncertainties: shifting of student interests, fragile democracies, accelerating environmental challenges –like climate change– a change in the perception of the general public regarding the legitimacy of universities, and an unpredictable technological future. In such a context, partnership is absolutely essential. The ability to collaborate, to exchange, to learn from one another, and to identify and work toward common goals is what will define the strength and relevance of our institutions in the years ahead.

→ Reflections on my presidency of the Magalhães Network, 2018–2022

Silvia Caro

Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)

I had the privilege of receiving the presidency from Prof. Per Warfvinge (President) and Ms. Christina Grossmann (Secretary) from Lund University, whose leadership set important precedents for institutional strengthening. In 2022, I closed this chapter by passing this position to Prof. Roberto Zanino from Politecnico di Torino. This continuity is part of what makes the Network resilient. Each leadership builds on what came before and contributes to shaping what follows. For me, personally, this was a rewarding experience. Being part of this Network was a unique opportunity to learn from other institutions and to work with extraordinary colleagues who became dear friends. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Yadira Mogollón and Mrs. Lorena Méndez, who held the Secretary of the Network during the Uniandes presidency.

As the Network reaches its twentieth anniversary, I am convinced that one of its main roles is to offer a safe and effective space for building shared agendas between Latin America and Europe, and for imagining what international cooperation will look like in the future. I hope the Magalhães Network continues to thrive, to grow, and to adapt, without losing the essence that has made it strong for two decades: a commitment to people, to connection, and to the power of working together.

→ Reflections on my presidency of the Magalhães Network, 2018–2022



The Mario Laserna Building, home to the School of Engineering at Universidad de Los Andes, is a strategic academic infrastructure integrating state-of-the-art laboratories, innovative learning environments, and interdisciplinary research centers focused on academic excellence, innovation, and experiential education.



Magalhães General Assembly, Monterrey, 2022:
Silvia Caro, Roberto Zanino, José Manuel Páez



↗
Magalhães General Assembly,
Bath, 2023: Martin Tunér,
Luis Manuel Sánchez Ruiz



Magalhães General Assembly, Bogotá, 2018 ↗



Magalhães General Assembly, Bogotá, 2018: Sibylle Langer ↗

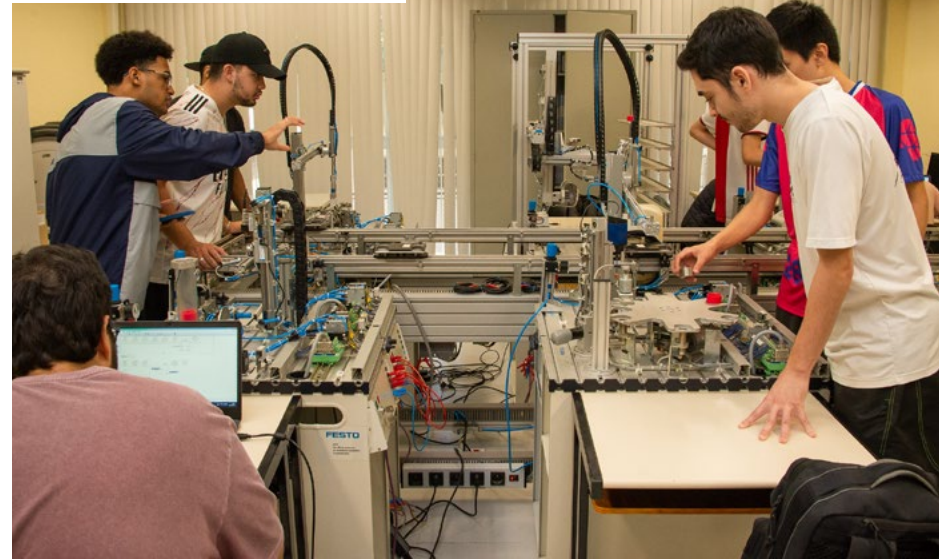
Hybrid Flax Pavilion and Wangen Tower.
View across the Argenwiese at the State
Garden Show, Wangen im Allgäu.
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Universidade Estadual Paulista
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Unesp-Sorocaba ICTS

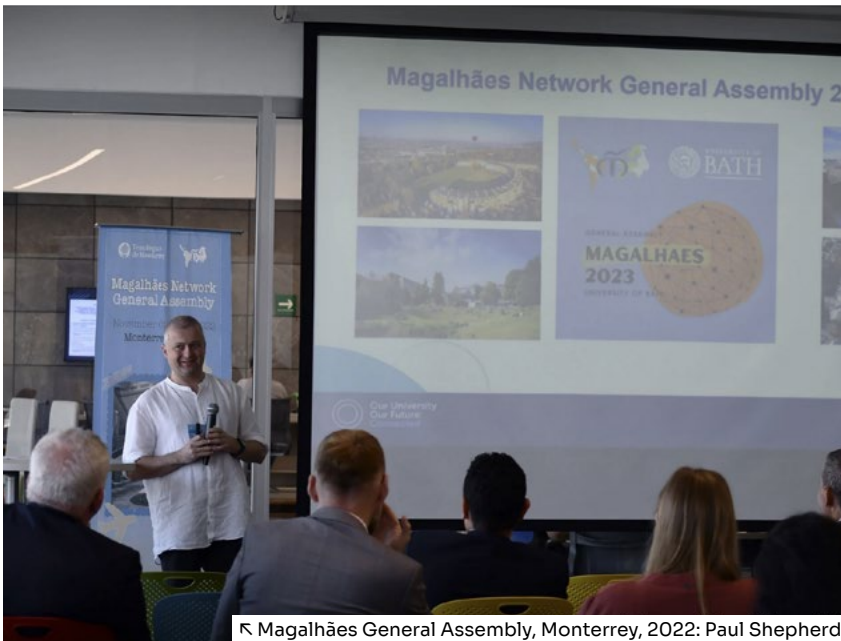


Registro de mediciones aerodinámicas
de la voz en el laboratorio de
tecnologías de la salud del Centro
Avanzado de Ingeniería Eléctrica y
Electrónica (AC3E), centro basal de
excelencia de la Universidad Técnica
Federico Santa María (USM)





↵ Magalhães General Assembly, Monterrey, 2022



↵ Magalhães General Assembly, Monterrey, 2022: Paul Shepherd



↵
Magalhães General Assembly,
Bath, 2023: Linda Serandour


Twenty Years of Transatlantic Collaboration: Celebrating the Magalhães Network

Luis Vargas / Vice-President of the Magalhães Network
Universidad de Chile (Chile)

In the present global context, international collaboration faces complex challenges arising from geopolitical tensions, evolving economic policies, and dynamic migratory patterns, which require renewed strategies for open and effective academic Exchange. Higher education has not been immune to these pressures. In some settings, academic freedom and institutional autonomy—pillars of knowledge creation and dissemination—faces constraints, highlighting the importance of resilient and adaptive international cooperation.

Academic internationalization has been a constant throughout the evolution of human knowledge, adapting to the social, political, and technological changes of each era. Its roots can be traced to medieval academic exchanges, when monks and students crossed borders to access centers of learning. Subsequently, during the Enlightenment, scientific networks emerged that consolidated the concept of a "Republic of Letters," in which knowledge transcended geographic and political boundaries.

Over time, internationalization became institutionalized, driven by the need to promote scientific collaboration, talent mobility, and joint projects. This process led to the establishment of bilateral and multilateral agreements, exchange programs, and dedicated funding to support academic cooperation among countries. In this context, the Magalhães Network has emerged as a contemporary example of international partnerships, fostering academic mobility, joint research, and the exchange of experiences among institutions from different countries— thus both continuing and innovating the historical tradition of global knowledge networks.



↖
Magalhães General Assembly,
Bath, 2023: Luis Vargas

Luis Vargas

Universidad de Chile (Chile)

Over the past twenty years, the Network has demonstrated that collaboration can endure and transcend obstacles. Its history is one of resilience, anchored in the conviction that the advancement of knowledge and the promotion of mutual understanding are inseparable. This resilience is manifested in its annual General Assemblies, which bring together representatives from institutions across continents, and in signature initiatives such as the SMILE student-mobility agreements. **However, contemporary challenges, characterized by an unprecedented level of interconnectedness and the complexity it entails, represent a new dimension of opportunity and complexity for international collaboration.** It is no longer sufficient to preserve existing structures; internationalization must be reimagined, strategically revitalized, and expanded to meet the demands of an evolving global landscape.

Such a task is not optional but essential.

Internationalization remains one of the most powerful instruments for cultivating epistemic openness, critical innovation, and intercultural dialogue. Encounters with diverse intellectual traditions and cultural perspectives develop the empathy and cultural intelligence essential for navigating an interconnected world. In a global system shaped by economic, technological, and environmental interconnections, the ability to collaborate across borders is indispensable. Internationalization is a cornerstone for addressing shared global challenges – from climate change to pandemics and sustainable energy – and underscores the pivotal role of higher education in fostering human progress.

→ Twenty Years of Transatlantic Collaboration: Celebrating the Magalhães Network

Luis Vargas

Universidad de Chile (Chile)

The Magalhães Network, with its two decades of commitment to academic mobility and cooperation, stands as a testament to this vision. Its structural features—the biennial presidency rotating between Europe and Latin America and coordination through a Steering Committee and General Assembly—ensure democratic governance and shared leadership. Its history honors the legacy of international scholarly exchange while pointing decisively toward the future. **This legacy will be celebrated at the 20th Anniversary General Assembly in 2025, hosted by Politecnico di Torino, where member institutions from across continents will reaffirm their commitment to cooperation, innovation, and intercultural understanding.**

As the Magalhães Network embarks on its third decade, it continues to inspire a vision of higher education that transcends borders, cultivates excellence, and strengthens the ties that unite scholars, students, and institutions across continents. May the next twenty years bring even greater partnerships, discovery, and shared progress for the global academic community.

→ Twenty Years of Transatlantic Collaboration: Celebrating the Magalhães Network



São Paulo, 2025: Adnei Melges de Andrade and Roberto Zanino, second and fifth presidents ↗



↖ São Paulo, 2025: Steering Committee meeting



↖ Magalhães General Assembly, Santiago de Chile, 2024: Renato D'Alençon



↗ Magalhães General Assembly, Santiago de Chile, 2024



Magalhães General Assembly, Valparaíso, 2024 ↗



Magalhães General Assembly, Santiago de Chile, 2024 ↗



Magalhães General Assembly, Valparaíso, 2024:
Roberto Zanino, Juan Ignacio Yuz Eissmann (Rector of Universidad
Técnica Federico Santa María), Luis Vargas, Lydia Droegemueller

The Valentino Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is part of the Architecture, Design, and Urban Planning Campus of Politecnico di Torino. A historic landmark, it lies at the heart of an ambitious plan to expand the campus along the Po River through the redevelopment of Torino Esposizioni. Photo: © Michele D'Ottavio





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THE MAGALHÃES NETWORK

Thanks to the Magalhães Network, 20 top universities from Latin America and the Caribbean have been working together for 20 years now with 20 top European universities in the fields of engineering and architecture, first mainly on education, more recently also on research&innovation.

This booklet presents a summary of the achievements of the Network over the last 10 years, as well as of its vision and resulting mission for the future, which include the ambition of giving a non-negligible contribution to the EU-LAC relations.

The booklet also includes several illustrations of the infrastructures in the Magalhães universities, and especially of the Magalhães community, which over all these years has shown a strong and passionate commitment to the Network activities, thus developing a fundamental mutual trust among its members.

