



UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

Innovation - Responsabilité - Francophonie

The G3 network: Building Bridges Across Continents

UNICA Days – Brussels, Feb. 25-27 2026



Why the G3?

14 years ago, UdeM approached two of its major European partners (ULB and UNIGE) with the suggestion to launch a French-speaking network based on shared characteristics:

- French-speaking in a multilingual country, with French being a minority language of that country → francophone-minded but open to the world
- Federal political system
- Located in large, cosmopolitan and intercultural cities, hosting international institutions and businesses
- Comprehensive universities with strong interconnection between education and research
- Committed to excellence and innovation-driven
- Strong focus on the 3rd mission: service to society
- Interest for collaboration with African partners
→ Association with UCAD Dakar since May 2023

Funded on 26 September 2012 in Brussels



What do we do?

Creation of a common fund to support trilateral projects:

- Total budget of 3 x 50 000 EUR
- Call for applications every two years
- Open to projects in teaching, research and admin (libraries, QA, culture...)
- Projects must have at least one coordinator in each of the three universities
- Maximum amount per project 25 000 EUR - 30 000 EUR if UCAD
- Seed money to foster new collaborations
- Objectives:
 - Build ties between our universities in our areas of excellence
 - Promote our values: innovation, francophonie, social responsibility
 - Enhance our international visibility
 - Help academics get ready to apply for more important external funding

→ 8 calls, 54 projects (3 with UCAD but only one call)

Does it work?

Survey in 2020:

- **72%** of projects fulfilled their objectives: joint publications, presentations at conferences, innovative teaching material, colloquium, online resource platform, development of a doctoral network...
- **54%** got un hoped-for results, e.g. extension to new partners outside the G3
- **50%** had never worked with one of the two colleagues involved
- **91%** of projects would have been impossible outside the G3 (complementarity)
- **89%** appreciated working with a common francophone approach to their field
- **78%** have maintained the collaboration with at least one of the partners (sometimes both) after the end of project
- **58%** have started a new project together
- **50%** applied for outside funding

And the future?

New call just closed in January (2nd time with UCAD):

- Selection process underway
- Applications in Medicine, Social Sciences, Psychology, Archives, Ecology, Law, Theater...
- 5-6 projects will be funded
- Projects will run from April 2026 to March 2028

The Francophone Quality Assurance Symposium

- Now a self-supported event, organized every two years
- Still co-organized by UdeM+ULB+UNIGE but participants from all over the French-speaking world

Development of joint programs/degrees

- Pilot project for a common BA in Political Science