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# **A WORD FROM THE RECTOR**



# 50 Years of Research at UAveiro: Challenges for the future

The research university emerged at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with von Humboldt and the University of Berlin. It was an ivory tower, where people created and thought in isolation. Gradually, the gap between research universities and society has decreased, and with it the capacity of academia to promote innovation, economic growth and social development.

Today, in the midst of the knowledge economy, the centrality of universities in science and knowledge, and their impact on the economy and development of countries, is unequivocal.

Universidade de Aveiro was born focused on the creation, transmission and application of knowledge. The importance of research and participation in solving regional problems was prominent in its founding vision.

After five decades, the creation of knowledge remains at the heart of our activity. We are among the 100 best in the world for research, and in some parameters, far above any other national institution, and far above institutions with significantly greater resources.

The future is full of complex challenges, but also unlimited possibilities. We can safely say, without false modesty, that what we have achieved in these five decades instills confidence and optimism for the future.