

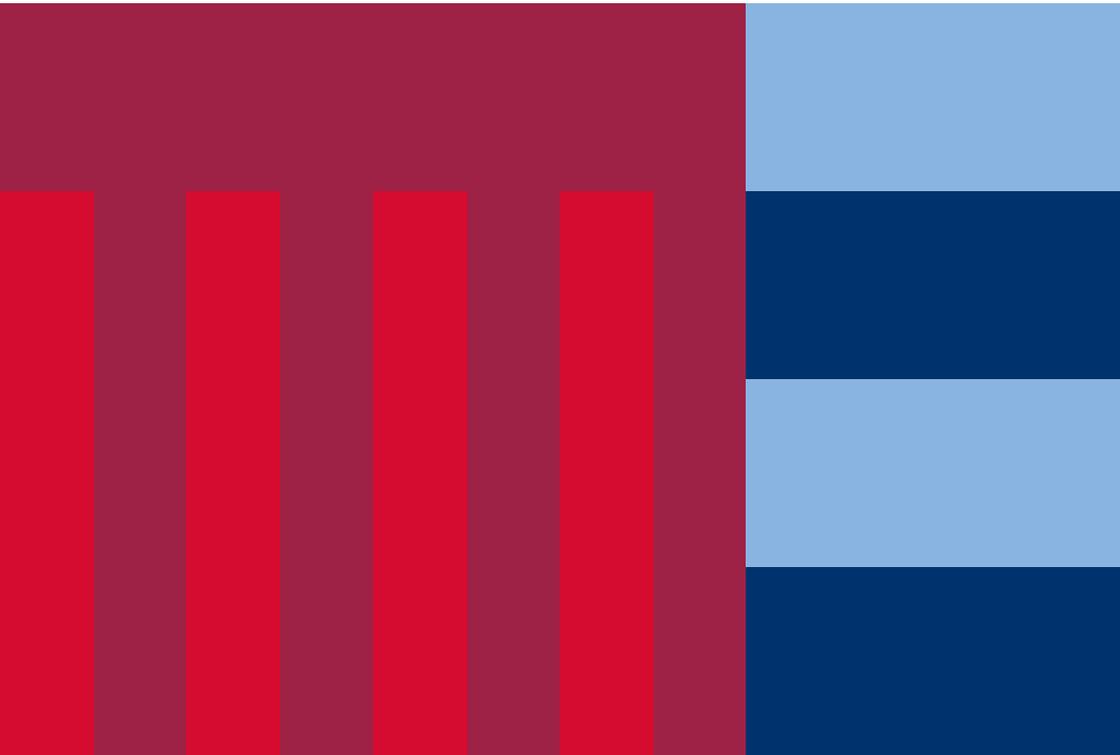


Universität  
Bremen

EU Research Funding:

# Horizon Europe

EU Research Framework Program 2021 – 2027



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## 1. WELCOME



### Dear Researchers,

I'm glad that you have opened the University of Bremen's handout about "Horizon Europe", in which we give you a compact overview of the new European Union research framework program.

Perhaps you are one of the researchers at the University of Bremen who have already gathered experience with the instruments of the EU funding program. Perhaps you have never encountered the EU's funding program for research and innovation, but have an idea for a research project and don't yet know which format within the framework of "Horizon Europe" could come into question for you. We would like to invite you to discover more about "Horizon Europe" with us, regardless of the source of your motivation, and entirely independent of your previous experience or career stage.

"Horizon Europe" comprises a multitude of formats, ranging from the specific funding of individual researchers and "classical" collaborative projects with European and other international partners, to market-oriented innovation and transfer projects.

As a scientist at the University of Bremen, you are a member of a university that aims to become a European research university and is dedicated to the future of Europe within the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) alliance.

“Horizon Europe” set its emphasis on research into current social challenges relating to culture, health, the environment, digitalization and mobility. In these areas, there are numerous touch points with our research at the University of Bremen.

Based on your research topics and interests, I would like to encourage you to participate in the manifold activities within the framework of “Horizon Europe”. In order to find the appropriate funding format for you and enable your active participation, you will be supported by the EU counselors of the Research Services of University of Bremen (Unit 12).

Please feel free to direct your questions and suggestions to me as Vice President Research.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jutta Günther', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

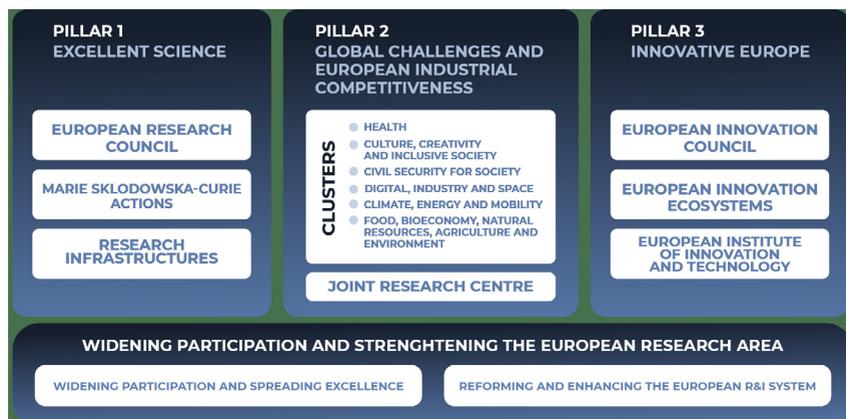
**Professor Jutta Günther**  
*Vice President Research*

## 2. A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HORIZON EUROPE

### 2.1 WHAT IS HORIZON EUROPE?

- Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding program for research and innovation and comprises all research and innovation funding instruments
- Objectives:
  - Realization of a knowledge- and innovation-based society
  - Realization of a competitive economy
  - To play a role in the solution of current societal challenges in Europe and beyond
- Timeframe 2021 – 2027
- Budget of around EUR 95 billion

### The Structure of the Horizon Europe Program



## **Pillar I – Excellent Science**

Predominantly bottom-up funding for individual researchers and research groups.

- **The European Research Council (ERC)** funds open-topic projects in frontier science conducted by excellent researchers at various career levels ; see section 2.6.1. for details.
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)** are grants in the form of open-topic call that foster the mobility, education, and career development of researchers in postdoctoral fellowships, and the exchange of staff; see section 2.6.2. for details.
- **Research infrastructures** serve the purpose of funding the establishment, maintenance and improvement of access to research infrastructures.

## **Pillar II – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness**

**Top-down** managed joint projects should contribute to the solution of global challenges, the realization of sustainable development within the meaning of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, knowledge gained through research funding, and the fostering of all forms of innovation. The topics are concentrated into six clusters. They call for the interdisciplinary development of innovative solutions – wherever possible, with the involvement of the humanities and social sciences. Promising solutions must be tested, demonstrated, and upscaled.

### **Missions**

Missions are research and innovation instruments that address ambitious goals to meet current societal challenges in an interdisciplinary manner within a predefined period of time (max. ten years). The missions are split over five thematic areas („Mission Areas), and are anchored alongside the regular calls in the thematically relevant clusters in Pillar II of the framework program:

- Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation
- Cancer
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
- Climate-neutral and smart cities
- Soil Health and Food

### **Pillar III – Innovative Europe**

Both bottom-up and top-down managed joint projects for the promotion of all forms of innovation: from technological development, demonstration, and knowledge transfer to (market) maturity and launch. Correspondingly, it addresses small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which, in collaboration with researchers, can contribute to raising the levels of European innovation.

More detailed information about the three pillars, the missions, and the program areas horizontal to the pillars is provided on the websites of the EU-Bureau of the BMBF (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung), (in German only), the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations – KoWi, and the European Commission:

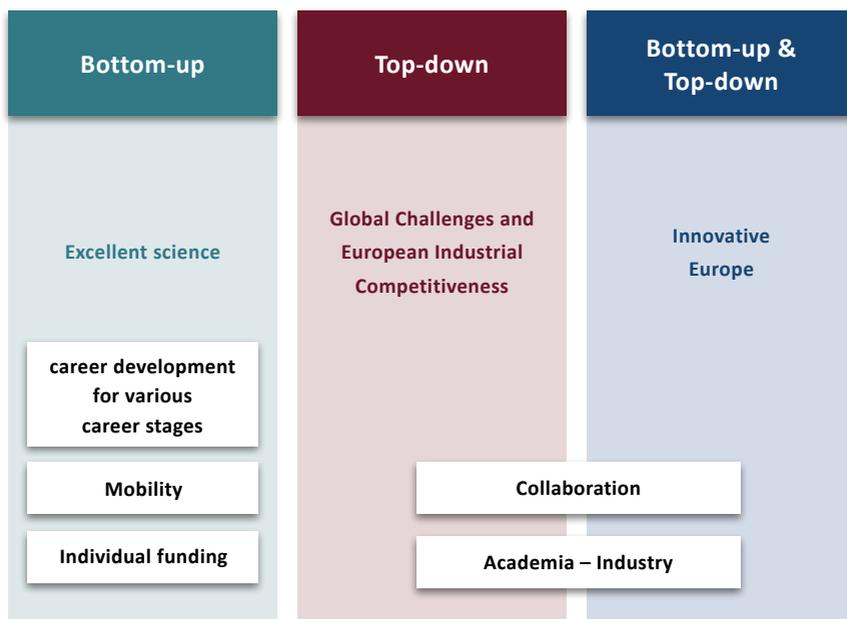
[www.horizont-europa.de](http://www.horizont-europa.de)

<https://www.kowi.de/en/kowi/Horizon-Europe/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-2.aspx>

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en)

## 2.2 WHO CAN APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HORIZON EUROPE PROGRAM?

- Both individual researchers and research groups
- Participation depending on career level, project type and size of the project in individual funding and/or collaborative proposals
- Partners can be for example: Universities, research institutes, companies, associations
- Further criteria:
  - Is the object of the project idea basic research or applied research?
  - Is mobility funding the right form for ongoing career development?



## 2.3 CURRENT CALLS

Can be found in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal: The portal also provides a full text search function for all current

calls in Horizon Europe. Further information about the application process can be found in section 3.1.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>

## 2.4 PROJECT DURATION AND REQUIRED NUMBER OF PARTNERS

A typical small to medium scale collaborative project usually takes two to four years; larger projects may take between three and five years. There are no formal limits. Good project planning must contain a sound time-frame with clearly defined milestones and objectives. The work programs with minimum and maximum budgets for projects can give an indication to an appropriate project timeframe.

How many partners and which countries should be involved depends on the orientation of the project in terms of content. Although there are no fixed limits for maximum duration, there are, as a rule, minimum requirements with regard to the number of partners and, in some cases, the types of organizations.

## 2.5 FUNDING RATES

For universities, the Horizon Europe project funding rates for research and innovation actions (Research and Innovation Actions/RIA, collaborative research, ERC projects), innovation actions /IA, and coordination and support actions (CSA) for all organization types amounts to 100 % of eligible direct costs (personnel costs, travel expenses, or costs for goods and services) plus a flat rate of 25 percent for indirect costs (overhead cost).

The rates may differ for other funding lines. In Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, for example, unit costs and lower indirect costs are paid.

The web pages of the EU Office of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research – BMBF (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, in German only) provide more detailed information about funding instruments and funding rates: [www.horizont-europa.de/de/Instrumente-1718.html](http://www.horizont-europa.de/de/Instrumente-1718.html)  
[www.horizont-europa.de/de/Finanzen-1728.html](http://www.horizont-europa.de/de/Finanzen-1728.html)  
<https://www.kowi.de/en/kowi/Horizon-Europe/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-2.aspx>

## 2.6 ERC AND MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE FUNDING OPTIONS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### 2.6.1 ERC

#### The Objective of Funding

The University Executive Board wishes to further internationalize the academic staff and motivate outstanding researchers to realize their excellent research projects at the University of Bremen. The funding opportunities offered by the European Research Council (ERC) are eminently suitable for this.

The mission of the ERC is to strengthen the dynamism, creativity, and scientific excellence of European research on the following principles and to ensure that the world's best researchers conduct their research projects in Europe:

- Scientific autonomy
- Fostering of excellent and innovative frontier research
- Scientific excellence is the sole criterion
- Applications can be made in any field of research, and the possibility of going beyond classical disciplinary boundaries (bottom-up (investigator-driven), therefore also an attractive option for the humanities and social sciences)
- Independent researchers of any nationality, age and career level can apply for funding, regardless of where they are currently employed
- Submission possible as sole applicant (= no consortia, no networks, no co-financing required)
- simple and transparent application procedure for attractive, long-term funding
- ERC projects are portable

#### ERC Funding Lines and Funding Conditions

- a. ERC Starting Grants address promising early-career researchers starting their own, independent careers and wishing to set up their own research group.
- b. ERC Consolidator Grants address excellent researchers starting an independent career whose own independent research group is in the consolidation phase.

- c. The target group of ERC Advanced Grants are established, active researchers with an outstanding research track record in the last ten years.
- d. ERC Synergy Grants address teams of two to four promising researchers whose projects are expected to lead to discoveries at interfaces between established disciplines and substantial advances at the frontiers of science. Teams must be made up of excellent early-career researchers and established active researchers with a track record of outstanding scientific achievement.
- e. Up until now, researchers who already hold an ERC grant and would like to pre-commercialize a research result from their current or recently completed project have been eligible to apply for a proof-of-concept grant. The aim of this was to assess the market potential of such an idea. The ERC Proof-of-Concept Grant is currently being evaluated by the ERC Scientific Council, and is therefore not a component of the currently applicable ERC Work Program 2021.

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
Qualification	2 - 7 years after PhD	7 - 12 years after PhD	outstanding research track record over the past 10 years	Group with 2 to 4 excellent researchers
Funding	Up to EUR 2 million	Up to EUR 2.5 million	Up to EUR 3.5 million	2020 up to 14 million EUR
Duration	Up to 5 years	Up to 5 years	Up to 5 years	2020 up to 6 years
Closing deadline	4/12/2021 1/13/2022	4/20/2021 3/17/2022	8/31/2021 4/28/2022	No call 2021 11/10/2021

<https://www.eubuero.de/erc-germany.htm>

**Why ERC proposals make good sense:**

- Manageable effort required for submission procedure
- High funding to secure the establishment of an own research group
- Accelerates career development
- No age limit (advantage over Emmy Noether/DFG)
- High appreciation of funding not only in higher education institutions
- ERC-Grants enhance the international visibility of the beneficiaries and their host institutes

**Advisory:** Research Services, Silke Reinold, eu@vw.uni-bremen.de,  
**Tel.** +49 421 218 – 60326

## 2.6.2 MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE

### **The Objectives of Funding**

At the University of Bremen, the key focus is set on the funding of researchers at the beginning their academic career. In the PhD and postdoc phases, mobility and the gathering of international experience should be enabled and appealingly structured. The objective of the Marie-Curie Actions for the promotion of the mobility of early-career researchers is to make Europe more attractive for researchers. They are successfully proven instruments for the promotion of mobility and enhancing attractiveness to international applicants. In addition to the work in another country, mobility always sets its sights on interdisciplinary exchange and the gathering of intersectoral experience in other organizations or enterprises to assure optimal fostering of competencies and careers.

**The Four MSCA Funding Lines Focus on:**

- Researchers and researcher education
- Career development
- Development of expertise
- Transnational mobility
- Intersectoral mobility

## MSCA Funding Lines and Funding Conditions

- a. **Doctoral Networks (DN)** including industrial doctorates and joint doctorates offer a structured doctoral education within the European network.
- b. **Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)** enable candidates to apply for temporary position abroad within the European Fellowship or Global Fellowship; refer to the text field European Fellowship / Global Fellowship for details.
- c. **Staff Exchange (SE)** strengthens international connections through the exchange of personnel with European and international partners.
- d. **COFUND** enables co-financing for regional, national and international PhD or post-doctoral programs.

European Fellowship (EF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Research stay in Europe</li><li>- Post-doctoral researchers of any nationality, up to 8 years after PhD</li><li>- 12 – 24 months in a member state or associated country</li></ul>
Global Fellowship (GF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Research stay outside Europe (with mandatory return phase)</li><li>- Post-doctoral researchers up to 8 years after PhD, nationals of a member state or associated country, or long-term research residency in Europe (&gt;= 5 years, uninterrupted)</li><li>- 12 – 24 months in a non-associated third country + 12-month mandatory return to Europe (member state or associated country)</li></ul>
Closing date	2021: 10/12/2021

### Why a Postdoctoral Fellowship Is So Attractive for Early-Career Researchers:

- Application for a temporary position abroad for up to two years
- International renown for beneficiaries of funding and host institutes, high visibility
- Disciplinary and supra-disciplinary career development as an essential aspect of the application
- Excellent international networking opportunities in early phases of career development

The University of Bremen concludes full TV-L 13 employment agreements with MSCA fellows (TV-L 13 = remuneration grade 13 for German civil servants). Potential differences between the unit costs paid by the EU and TV-L 13 remuneration must be financed by the hosting faculty of the University of Bremen. The state of Bremen co-finances part of the difference in order to support the Europeanization of young scientists and the implementation of the framework for good employment conditions.

Before participating in EU MSCA programs, hosting faculties of the university must first determine whether they can finance the co-payment.

For further information, please contact: [eu@vw.uni-bremen.de](mailto:eu@vw.uni-bremen.de)

**Advisory services:** Research Services, Dr. Andrea Gottlieb,  
[eu@vw.uni-bremen.de](mailto:eu@vw.uni-bremen.de), **Tel.** +49 421 218-60322

## 3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

### 3.1 HOW CAN I APPLY?

**1. Registration** in the Funding & Tenders-Portal: Before participants can actively use the portal, they must register once only by entering their name and a valid e-mail address in the EU login function of the Funding & Tenders-Portal. By entering your password and e-mail address, you have personal access to the portal for an overview of all open and forthcoming calls for proposals, as well as for project realization in Horizon Europe.

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/eim/external/register.cgi>

University of Bremen: data for the electronic submission of proposals in Horizon Europe	
PIC (Participant Identity Code)	999987454
Organization short name	UBremen
Lear	Silke Reinold, sreinold@uni-bremen.de

**2. Read the work program and other relevant documents:** All the necessary documents are available in the Funding & Tenders-Portal. In addition, all proposals must be submitted via the portal, and, if successful, the portal must be used for the preparation of grant agreements and contracts and all other administrative and project management tasks.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON>

**3. Contact the University of Bremen EU Advisory Service** for practical assistance with the submission of your proposal. You can find details of the services offered by the EU Advisory Service in section 4. It also helps you to find the contact persons you can consult in other administrative units of the university.

**4. Timing:** Calls open around five months before the proposal submission deadline. The respective work programs are publicized before the opening of the call. They precisely describe the funding requirements and objectives and thus enable timely project planning.

The EU Commission stipulates a period of eight months after submission of the proposal for assessment, including all procedures required for the preparation of the contract (time to grant).

### 3.2 WHAT ELSE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT?

In compliance with EU policies, each proposal must take into account and address further aspects such as open access / open data, ethical requirements and the gender equality plan (GEP).

Information about requirements can be found on the website (currently in German only):

- Factsheet Open Access/Open Data <https://www.uni-bremen.de/foerderberatung>
- Code of Ethics <https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/foerderberatung/our-counselling-service-on-funding-provided-by-the-european-union>
- Further stages of the proposal submission process and ongoing projects are supported by various Administrative Units of the University. The respective research groups are fundamentally responsible for project management. Details of our advisory and support services can be found in section 4.

### 3.3 WORK AS AN EXPERT

Horizon Europe, the EU Research and Innovation program appoints external experts to assist in the evaluation of grant applications. You can register as an expert in the European Commission's database of external experts at any time. In view of the complexity of the program and open calls, the Commission is always looking for experts with a wide range of disciplinary, institutional, and professional backgrounds, as well as experts with appropriate insights. Working as an expert or evaluator provides excellent insights into the processes of evaluation, and can be helpful for persons planning to submit their own proposals and tenders in the future.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert>

### 3.4 OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. The website "Other Funding Opportunities" provides a bundled overview of additional competitive calls and calls for third parties submit-

ted by public-public partnerships from several member states of the EU, joint technology initiatives (JTI), co-funding activities (ERA-NETs, European Joint Programs), and other EU or national programs.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/other-funding>

2. Some currently funded EU research projects submit calls to recruit additional partners (e.g. end-users, platform providers). Such calls for third-party involvement apply in particular to ICT projects. These calls can be found in the European Commission Funding & Tenders Portal under the keyword “Open competitive calls and calls for third parties”.  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls>
3. Awarding of EU calls for tenders: The European Commission also publishes calls for tenders concerning service contracts in the Funding & Tenders Portal. These are processed in accordance with the guidelines and regulations applicable to public procurement and are fundamentally different from calls for the submission of project proposals. The provision of services and agreements for the provision of resources, goods, or services by third parties, e.g. studies and analyses relating to specific and current issues, the organization and conducting of conferences, workshops, and other meetings that address topics relevant to European collaborative research.  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/tenders>

Current tenders can be found under “Tenders” in the Funding & Tenders Portal. The portal also offers a keyword search function.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programmeCcm2Id=null;programmeDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;order-By=asc;onlyTenders=true;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

## 4. ADVISORY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The University of Bremen EU Advisory Service proposes suitable funding opportunities individually, supports during the preparation of proposals, budget calculation, contract preparation, and in the course of the project.

You can find more detailed information about our services and the other stakeholders in university administration who can provide support during the process of submitting an application and the course of a project, as well as links to national advisory services offered by national points of contact and the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (“KoWi”) in Bonn and Brussels on our website at: <https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/foerderberatung/our-counselling-service-on-funding-provided-by-the-european-union>

**07 Seed funding for new collaborative projects** The University’s Central Research Development Fund (CRDF) supports the submission of applications in coordinated programs and the necessary preparatory work. Promising initiatives, for instance for proposals relating to EU collaborative projects, should be supported in the early stages of preparation (currently in German only).

<https://www.uni-bremen.de/forschung/foerderangebote-service/ausschreibungen/zentrale-forschungsfoerderung-zf/07-verbundvorhaben>

**Project management** for larger collaborative projects is a challenging task that must be carried out in the respective research groups. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the EU Advisory Service for expert support based on many years of experience.

## 5. STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

In its Strategy 2018 – 2028, the University of Bremen declared its intent to become one of Europe’s leading research universities. The networks Young Universities for the future of Europe (YUFE) and the Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN) play an essential role in the achievement of this objective.

Participation in the shaping of funding programs such as Horizon Europe and the framework conditions of the European Research Area, e.g. “Open Science, Open Innovation, Open to the World”, can only be successful in a strong network with other higher education institutions (HEIs) across Europe.

Since BREXIT, collaborative projects with partners in the United Kingdom are of particular importance to the University Executive Board. Our goal is to maintain the existing levels of collaboration and mobility with regard to our partners in the UK, despite the consequences of BREXIT.

These partnerships thrive on conducting collaborative research and developing joint research proposals. In order to develop collaborative research projects, it is essential that we find and get together with thematically appropriate partner institutions in the network. The network has an added value in achieving the strategic goals of the University of Bremen.

### 5.1 YERUN – YOUNG EUROPEAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

As a founding member of YERUN, the University of Bremen has been connected with universities at a European level since 2015. Universities that share the same values and are characterized by their powers of innovation, research and teaching excellence, and their commitment to interdisciplinary exchange and social responsibility. The network currently has a membership of 18 higher education institutions from 11 countries – all of them universities that were younger than 50 years old at the time they joined and were amongst the top 50 universities in the Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking of young universities. YERUN brings the concerns,

perspectives, and strengths of young, high-profile research institutions into European discussions in order to ensure that their needs are considered within the European agenda. It strives to play a role in responses to the developmental challenges of European society by adopting a European perspective on global issues. The aim of the network is successful collaboration in joint research and teaching initiatives to maximize the mobility, research capacities, and employability of its graduates.

**The following universities are members in the network:**

- The German Universities of Bremen, Konstanz, and Ulm
- Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)
- Syddansk Universiteit (Denmark)
- Dublin City University, University of Limerick (Ireland)
- University of Rijeka (Croatia)
- Universitat Autònoma de Madrid, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain)
- University of Eastern Finland
- Université Paris Dauphine (Paris Dauphine University, France)
- Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata (Italy)
- Universiteit Maastricht (Netherlands)
- Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Nova University Lisbon, Portugal)
- Brunel University London und University of Essex (United Kingdom)
- University of Cyprus

<https://www.yerun.eu/about-yerun>

## **5.2 YUFE – YOUNG UNIVERSITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE**

The cooperation within YUFE started from the YERUN network founded as an alliance of young and innovative European universities. Other partners have joined the alliance, which is dedicated to the development of a young European university that is non-elitist, integrative, and participative. The alliance is motivated by the idea of closing the social divide and making Europe more accessible to its citizens. YUFE has set itself the goal of recognizing talent and creating opportunities for all Europeans, irrespective of their socio-economic or cultural background.

European career paths are open to all status groups of the member universities, whether they are experienced researchers, junior researchers, or university staff working in management, administrative, or technical

roles. YUFE also stands for close ties to the regions. All the universities work together with local enterprises, organizations of civil society, government, and administration to embody the European idea. Joint research and cooperation in teaching will contribute to the vision of realizing a European university in the years to come.

**The following universities are collaborating in the YUFE network:**

- Universiteit Maastricht (Netherlands)
- Nicolaus Copernicus University of Torun (Poland)
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain)
- Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)
- University of Bremen (Germany)
- University of Cyprus
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Essex (United Kingdom)
- University of Rijeka (Croatia)
- Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata (Italy)

**Also integrated as associated partners:**

- The Adecco Group (France)
- European Entrepreneurs (Belgium)
- ETS Global (France)
- Kiron (Germany)

<https://www.yufe.eu>

<https://www.uni-bremen.de/en/yufe>

## 6. OUTLOOK AND MOTIVATION

Not only through our appreciation for your efforts in writing research proposals, but also through tailored support, we would like to motivate you to submit proposals in Horizon Europe and other funding programs. Thus, we constantly work on the improvement of general conditions that enable researchers to do so. EU projects are an important building block for our university's excellence in research. Your suggestions on how our advisory and support services can be made even more effective helps us to improve our services.

## 7. CONTACTS IN RESEARCH SERVICES



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