



EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES

Erasmus+



Uniting over...

150,000
STUDENTS

20,000
STAFF

52
FACULTIES

153
RESEARCH
GROUPS

YUFE Young Universities for the Future of Europe



WHO WE ARE

8 pioneers

- Maastricht University (The Netherlands)
- University of Antwerp (Belgium)
- University of Bremen (Germany)
- University of Cyprus (Cyprus)
- University of Essex (United Kingdom)
- University of Eastern Finland (Finland)
- University Carlos III Madrid (Spain)
- University of Rome Tor Vergata (Italy)

6 associates

- 2 Research universities
- 3 Non-profit organisations
- 1 Enterprise

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) aims to bring a radical change by becoming the leading model of a **young, student-centred, non-elitist, open and inclusive** European University based on the **cooperation** between higher education institutions, public and private sector, and citizens. Due to their truly international and interdisciplinary profile, student-centred approach and strong embeddedness within local communities, the YUFE partners are in the perfect spot to build a modern higher education ecosystem, contributing to equipping Europe with the human capital needed to resolve its greatest social and technological challenges.

YUFE will have multiple locations across Europe where young talented people, from all partners and regions, will collaborate to address current and future challenges through four **YUFE Focus Areas**: European identity and responsibilities in a global world; Citizens' well-being; Digital societies; and Sustainability.

Personalised academic curricula will be the backbone of an equitable, diverse and effective education system that recognises and optimally fosters individual talents. In this context, YUFE will provide students with unique opportunities to be trained in an inclusive research- and work-based learning ecosystem leading

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to interdisciplinary and intersectoral knowledge and skills. By breaking down the barriers between society and academia, YUFE will also be a place where students gain professional and cultural experience relating to the different regional contexts across Europe.

YUFE will deliver its vision by gradually aligning, integrating, opening up and merging partner activities, services and infrastructures. YUFE partners have already built strong quadruple-helix models of open innovation, together with their

local governments, enterprises and civil society, and want to go one step further by linking the Smart Specialisation Strategies of the YUFE Regions across the EU for the mutual benefit of all European citizens. Ultimately, YUFE will provide European students from different backgrounds with life-changing educational experiences and opportunities. By doing so, YUFE will shape future generations of Europeans into socially responsible, globally oriented citizens and life-long learners equipped to effectively contribute to a more cohesive and inclusive European society.

PUTTING OUR VISION INTO PRACTICE

KEY DELIVERABLES / ACTIVITIES

- **Student mobility:** Students will be able to move in a seamless way between levels, programmes, modes (blended: physically and virtually), areas (research, innovation, work), duration (full-time and part-time), location and country.
- **Career development:** Career paths and professional development exchanges, as well as internships and training at both academic and non-academic partners of the YUFE Regions, will be supported and provided to both professionals and students.
- **Connecting and co-creating with local citizens:** Students will become involved in the local community by volunteering, setting up citizen helpdesks and by contributing to the development of housing solutions via a co-living programme.
- **Collaborating with local governments and enterprises:** Local/regional governments and SMEs will be partnering with YUFE to foster a bottom-up, Europe-wide co-creation process in social engagement, innovation and entrepreneurship.

HOW OUR ALLIANCE WILL TRANSFORM OUR UNIVERSITIES

The YUFE Governance Structure has been developed to address:

- **Inclusive governance** with **students** at the centre of the decision-making process and involving the whole YUFE quadruple-helix ecosystem (**universities, government, citizens** and **enterprises**).
- Involvement of the **existing university communities** from all YUFE partner universities, which is important for developing a true alliance-wide YUFE identity, with a shared vision of moving towards one YUFE European University with several campuses in all European regions.
- Transforming the existing joint and double degrees into **one single European University degree**, recognised across the European Education Area and beyond.
- Moving from currently cooperating, but autonomously operating, universities into **one European University**, with a single strategy and different branches in many European cities and countries.

Ultimately, YUFE also aims at achieving a shared identity legally by:

> <https://www.yufe.eu/>



#EuropeanUniversities

https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area/european-universities-initiative_en

